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No. 7736.—VOL. L. *FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 3, 1890.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE, THEATRE ROYAL.
(AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY at 1.30, and TO-NIGHT at 7.15, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Veno, Lauri, junr., Griffiths Bros., Conquest, jun., Leopold Bros., Pleon, Stanton, Abbs, Harry Payne, and Herbert Campbell; Misses Harriett Vernon, Faudelle, Hewitt, Willson, Comyns, Charteris, Deering, Bennett, Grey, Ænea, and Maggie Duggan.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BEERBOHM TREE.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW by ROBERT BUCHANAN. Mr. TREE as LAROQUE and LUVERSAN. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves, Tapping, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Mrs. Tree. At 7.45, GOOD FOR NOTHING, Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Pit Circle (unreserved) 2s. 6d. Gallery 1s.
MATINEE of A MAN'S SHADOW TO-MORROW (Saturday) and FOLLOWING SATURDAY, at 2.30.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)
THE DEAD HEART—A Story of the French Revolution. TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING at Eight o'clock. Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Righton; Miss Phillips, and Miss Ellen Terry. Box office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.40.—Lyceum.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.40, CASTE. (Last 7 Nights.) Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. C. Brookfield, Mr. A. Elwood, and Mr. David James; Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Olga Brandon, Mrs. C. Poole. Preceded by, at 8, SUNSHINE. Doors open 7.45. LAST MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30. Doors open at 2 o'clock.

GAIETY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr. Fred Leslie Mr. Fred Storey, Mr. Dalton Somers. Doors open at 7.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW (Saturday), Jan. 4, at 2.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
Return of Mr. J. L. TOOLE for a series of six weeks' Farewell Performances prior to his departure for Australia.
TO-NIGHT, LAST NIGHT, A BROKEN SIXPENCE. At 8.15, DOT (CALEB PLUMMER, Mr. J. L. Toole). THE STEEPLECHASE, OR TOOLE IN THE PIGSKIN. Doors open at 7, commence at 7.30. LAST MORNING PERFORMANCE of DOT TO-MORROW (Saturday). Open at 1.30, commence at 2. To-Morrow, SATURDAY NIGHT, for Six Nights only, PAUL PRY and DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—Box-office open daily 10 to 6.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)
The safest Theatre in the world, constructed entirely with concrete and iron, absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout by electricity.
LAST FIVE WEEKS.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, SWEET LAVENDER (660th time). Mr. Edward Terry and powerful Company. Carriages at 11. MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, LONDON DAY BY DAY. Immense success. 95th Night. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Marius, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Theo. Balfour, M. Bode, H. Russell, James East, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.: Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Rorke, Kate James, Charlotte Elliot, and Clara Jecks. Doors open at 7.0. POLLY'S VENTURE at 7.15.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)
EVERY EVENING the successful Comedy-Drama, JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART, by Robert Buchanan. 289th time. Mr. Thomas Thorne, Messrs. Cyril Maude, Frank Gillmore, F. Grove, C. Harbury, J. S. Blythe, Stanley Hope, and Fred Thorne; Misses Ella Banister, Sylvia Hodson, Coralie Owen, L. Bryer, &c. Doors open 7.30. Overture at 8.0. Box office open 10 to 6.30.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. R. BENSON.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, doors open at 7.30, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, with the Mendelssohn Incidental Music.—Messrs. S. Price, A. Brydone, F. R. Benson, H. Ross, G. M. Howard, H. Athol Forde, G. F. Black, G. R. Weir, S. Phillips, H. G. Tomkins, A. Grenville, O. Stuart; Mesdames M. Grey, A. Ferrar, Kate Rorke, F. R. Benson, G. Geraldine, M. Townsend, M. Woolgar Mellon, M. Mitchelmore.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
MASTER AND MAN.
TO-NIGHT, at 7.45, HENRY PETTITT and GEORGE R. SIMS' powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which the following popular artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, E. W. Gardiner, Sidney Howard, Charles Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E. Mayeur, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Fanny Brough, Mrs. Frank Huntley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.15, PAUL JONES. (35th performance.) Last two weeks. Preceded by, at 7.30, JOHN SMITH. Misses Hubert, Phyllis Broughton, Esmé Lee, Florence Darley, and Camille D'Arville; Messrs. Harry Monkhouse, Templer Saxe, Albert James, W. Cheesman, George Preston, A. T. Hendon, and Henry Ashley. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Telephone No. 3,700.

GARRICK THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HARE.)
THIS EVENING at eight, LA TOSCA. Mesdames Olga Nethersole, Rose Leclercq, Bessie Hatton; Messrs. Lewis Waller, Herbert Waring, Sidney Brough, Gilbert Farquhar, Lawrance D'Orsay, C. Dodsworth, C. Hudson, F. H. Knight, F. Powell, R. Power, S. Pringle, R. Harding, and J. Forbes Robertson. Address applications for seats to Box-office, open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Doors open at 7.30 P.M. Acting Manager, Mr. C. G. COMPTON.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.
Messrs. E. S. WILLARD and JOHN LART, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN LANCASTER.
THIS EVENING at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.
Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Garden, H. Cane, H. V. Esmond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith; Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Agnes Verity, St. Ange, Eva Moore, &c. Box-office now open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. GRIFFITHS.—SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. HENRY J. LESLIE.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Birdie Irving, Maud Holland, H. Coveney, and Florence Dysart; Messrs. Ben Davies, Alec Marsh, Albert Christian, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams.

COMEDY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by JAMES ALBERY, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Herbert Standing, Alfred Maltby, A. Boucicault, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Saker, Goldney, Robertson, Cowell, and Alma Stanley; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by F. W. Broughton. Box office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.
TO-NIGHT at 9, 152nd performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Cape, Mr. A. Aynesworth, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. F. Farren, Mr. Powell, Mr. W. Quinton; Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Florence Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, TO THE RESCUE, Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren, Miss F. Harrington, and Mrs. Phelps.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mons. C. D. MARIUS.)
TO-NIGHT, CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—At 9 o'clock the favourite Burlesque in Two Acts THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD, with New and Popular Music, arranged by JOHN CROOK. Preceded, at 8.15, by LA ROSE D'AUVERGNE, by OFFENBACH, and a one-act Comedietta, at 7.30, IN THE EXPRESS. Messrs. Albert Chevalier, Joseph Tapley, George Sinclair, George Capel, Harry Grattan, W. Warde, R. V. Shone, and Julian Cross; Mesdames Marie Linden, Minnie Byron, Violet Evelyn, Henriette Polak, Amelia Gruhn, Maria Davis, Isabel Ellissen, &c. Full orchestra, chorus, and ballet. Conductor, Mr. JOHN CROOK. Produced by Mons. MARIUS. Doors open 7.15. Box plan now open. Business Manager, Mr. R. D'ALBERTSON.

AVENUE THEATRE.
TO-DAY and EVERY DAY at 2.30. THE LONDON JUVENILE OPERA COMPANY (forty in number) in a new Rustic Ballad Opera, THE BELLES OF THE VILLAGE. Full Orchestra, Chorus, and Ballet. Conducted by John Fitzgerald.
The Christmas Edition of "THE BELLES OF THE VILLAGE," new songs, new dances, new effects, new scenes, introducing an old-fashioned Harlequinade and Fairy Ballet. Produced by Mons. C. D. MARIUS. Doors open 2 o'clock. Box plan open daily. Children Half-price.

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.
"ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.20. Signorina Bessone; Mdlles. Saracco, Marie, Thurgate, and Spotti, and Signor De Vicenti. Varieties by Miss Jennie Williams, Herr SANDOW (the modern Hercules) and Professor Attila, Bibb and Bobb, the Torikata Troupe, Wingfield's Performing Dogs, Harry Anderson, Harry Freeman, the Almonti Pantomime Troupe, Marie Lloyd, and JAMES FAWN. Open 7.30 until 11.30.

EMPIRE.
STUPENDOUS XMAS PROGRAMME.
Commence at 7.45. Two Grand Ballets. At 9.0 A DREAM OF WEALTH. Mdlles. Palladino and Bettina de Sorti, Signor Albertieri and Signorina Malvina Cavalazzi. Grand Variety Entertainment. At 9.50 the strongest men in the Empire. At 10.45, the Grand Ballet Divertissement THE PARIS EXHIBITION. No free list. At 9, a New Ballet Divertissement in three Tableaux, by Mdme. KATTI LANNER, entitled A DREAM OF WEALTH. Music composed by M. LEOPOLD WENZEL.

EMPIRE.
A DREAM OF WEALTH. ANOTHER EMPIRE TRIUMPH. Press unanimous.—EMPIRE THEATRE.

ROYAL, Holborn.
GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—Special engagement of Lockhart's performing Elephants. G. H. Macdermott, the popular actor and vocalist; Lydia Yeamans, queen of song; Bibb and Bobby the funny Continental clowns; the Mannons, in a novel musical absurdity; Yosituro, the wonderful Jap; Marie Lloyd, serio and danseuse; the Brantfords, American variety artists; Ottawa and Pepper; La Petite Bertoto, the charming transformation dancer; Waldron, Watson, and Naylor, the funny trio; Nellie Cavendish, serio; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Vesta Victoria, characteristic serio; Lieut. Travis, the premier ventriloquist of the world; and others.
EVENINGS at 7.30; SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d. to £2 2s.

A CHECK FOR THE COERCIONISTS.

COERCION in Ireland has at last received a serious check, and one which is of much significance quite apart from the question of government in that country. The case at issue, as reported in the *Daily News* (the *Times*, by the way, does not publish the report), was simplicity itself. Mr. CORNELIUS REDMOND, the editor of the *Waterford News*, published in that journal, under the head of "Local and District Gossip," a report of a meeting at which what was alleged to be a boycotting notice was given. A Mr. MIDLYCOTT was being boycotted. A cattle-exporter of Waterford, named SHORTISS, had bought some "emergency cattle" from MIDLYCOTT whereupon the meeting in question passed the following resolutions:—

(1) That the conduct of Mr. LAWRENCE, of Carrick-on-Suir, in not warning Mr. SHORTISS is reprehensible in the extreme. That the said Mr. LAWRENCE must for the future refuse all dealings with Mr. MIDLYCOTT.

(2) That Mr. LAWRENCE'S conduct in promising to obey this order is most commendable.

Mr. REDMOND published these resolutions as an item of news, without comment, in his paper. Whereupon he was prosecuted under the Coercion Act for that "he did wrongfully and without legal authority use intimidation towards one THOMAS LAWRENCE, of Carrickbeg, with a view to cause him to abstain from doing an act which he had a legal right to do, that is, to deal with one JOHN T. MIDLYCOTT in the ordinary course of trade." To any one not familiar with the ways of Coercion Courts on the one hand and with the ways of all courts in dealing with newspapers on the other, this accusation might seem a mere accusation *pour rire*. But conviction follows accusation before the Resident Magistrates as surely as night follows day, and Mr. REDMOND was duly sentenced to seven months' imprisonment. It is this conviction, with two others dependent on it, that County Court Judge WATERS yesterday reversed. He held, first, that there was really no "intimidation" in the original resolutions at all; and, secondly, that even if there had been it was absurd to convict an editor without evidence of an intent to intimidate by the mere publication of a piece of news. The decision of Judge WATERS will assuredly commend itself to every man who has the least spark of respect for common sense and common fairness. But the case is typical of many that have been brought by the Government under Mr. BALFOUR'S régime, and the decision of the county court judge is therefore a serious and salutary check to the Coercionists.

But it is more than that. It is a matter of welcome significance to all editors everywhere. Judge WATERS has struck an effective blow in defence of the Freedom of the Press—a cause which at one time it was the honour of the English Bench to promote, but which of late it has been zealous only to prevent. It is amazing with what difficulty and under what limitations the freedom to publish news has been obtained even in this country. A year ago newspapers could be proceeded against for libel for publishing even police notices and warnings; and if the damages in such cases and in others similar to it depended only on the judges, every scamp in the country had only to get into a newspaper in order to live in clover. The Libel Law Amendment Act of last session, though sadly shorn and mutilated, conferred—or rather was intended to confer—very substantial relief on newspapers. Indeed, in the matter of news it went very far towards securing all the liberty that editors have any right, or any wish, to demand. They were to be free, it was understood, to publish all reports of public meetings which might be either of public interest or of public benefit. But no Judge considers himself worth his salt in these days unless he can drive a coach and six through an Act of Parliament, and we saw only the other day in the case brought against the *Star* for reporting a Sugar-bounty meeting, how much on the alert one at least of the Judges was to limit the liberties of the Press, Parliament notwithstanding. The legal fiction in this case and in the Irish cases is at bottom precisely the same. It is the fiction that the editor who reports is responsible for the same intent as the man who speaks. We shall be curious to see how far Mr. BALFOUR will, after the decision of Judge WATERS, continue to carry the courage of his convictions. Will he continue to prosecute in Ireland? and will he advise his colleagues to prosecute in similar cases in England? We see that he writes this morning to thank a Tory correspondent for contradicting "the lie" that Ireland is treated differently from England. Then why, now that that foolish fellow WEIR has been committed to trial for inciting to murder Mr. LIVESEY, does he not advise a prosecution also of the *Times*, which first dragged WEIR'S words out from their well-merited obscurity?

THE PORTUGUESE ON THE ZAMBESI.

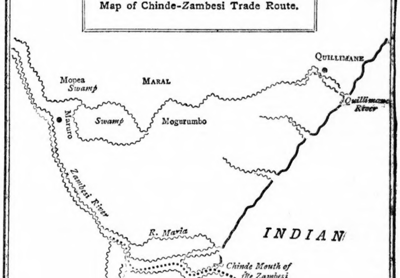
AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EX-ACTING CONSUL AT MOZAMBIQUE.

MR. DANIEL J. RANKIN is a young and sturdy Englishman who has just returned from more than six years' residence and journeys in the Zambesi region which is now attracting so much attention. As engaged in the Consular service—and latterly as Acting-Consul at Mozambique—he has had exceptional opportunities of studying the region in question. Moreover, in February of last year he was successful in discovering the Chinde River—a discovery which he has already communicated to the Scottish Geographical Society, and which will, he believes, materially alter the course of trade on the Zambesi. Mr. Rankin called at our office a few days ago, in order to put his information through our columns at the service of the public. The following report conveys the substance of what he has to say:—

THE PERILS OF THE PRESENT ROUTE TO THE INTERIOR.

Our representative asked first about the discovery of the Chinde, and its significance. The accompanying plan, made from a map which Mr. Rankin

Map of Chinde-Zambesi Trade Route.



drew, will render his explanations more readily intelligible. "The great difficulty hitherto," said Mr. Rankin, "in the way of opening up the trade of the Zambesi and Nyassa districts has been the Delta of the Zambesi. This Delta is an immense swamp, and none of the mouths by which the river empties itself into the sea has been found navigable. Hence the Quaqua or Quillimane River has up to the present time been almost exclusively used by trade and commerce in putting the interior Zambesi and Nyassa districts in regular communication with civilized markets. From the Portuguese custom-house at Quillimane, thirteen miles from the sea, produce and foreign goods have to be carried in lighters or the most primitive of dug-outs for some five days. Between the Zambesi and the furthest inland point attainable by the craft on the Quaqua is a tract of low swampy country some six or eight miles across. During the rainy season this part of the journey is, if not altogether impassable, fraught with imminent risk to produce and goods in transit, as it is too much to expect that a native will be able to carry on his head a heavy, cumbersome load through two feet and more of water

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The press generally, from Dan to Beersheba, is rejoicing in the resumption of the international Rugby matches, which is looked upon as an accomplished fact. But the truth is that a serious hitch has taken place in the negotiations, and the rejoicing is decidedly premature. When the Rugby Union Committee, on the part of England offered to refer the dispute to arbitration, everybody thought that the affair was as good as settled, but they reckoned without the International Board, which could not, it appears, accept the offer without introducing fresh complications.

* * * * *

The Board met at Manchester on Saturday last, Scotland and Wales each sending two deputies and Ireland one, and the well-known Scotch cricketer and half-back, Grant-Asher, acting for the occasion in the place of the missing Irish representative. It would seem that all the assembly had to do was to accept the English proposal, nominate an arbitrator, and adjourn; but here Scottish subtlety intervened, and a minute, drawn up in phraseology which might have befitted the historic case of Peebles *v.* Plainstanes, was submitted to the meeting and approved.

* * * * *

This document defines the points to be placed before the arbitrators—I ought rather to say "point," for only a single question is propounded, namely, what number of representatives is to be given to England when she joins the International Board. Now as the Rugby Union has in the first place an objection to joining any Board at all which directly or indirectly will deprive it of its old prerogative of making the laws of the game, it will be seen that the reference is artfully limited in a way unfavourable to the English case. An arbitrator unacquainted with the intricacies of the dispute, if merely informed that a Board is to be formed to govern international matches, and asked to decide how many delegates each country might justly claim to send, would probably order that the four Unions should be equally represented—an award which would fully satisfy the Scotch claims. If, however, he were to hear the whole history of the dispute, and appreciated the danger of giving the practical making of the laws to the representatives of a trifling minority of the clubs, his answer might be a very different one.

* * * * *

It is clear then that the Rugby Union would be very weak to consent to the Board's way of putting the question, and that there is still a great difficulty in the way of reconciliation. If the Board's move is merely a bit of preliminary haggling, and it is prepared to reduce its terms, we shall soon have peace restored; otherwise the international matches are as far off as ever. Lord Kingsburgh has been chosen as the Board's arbitrator. England will probably nominate Lord Harris or Major Marindin.

* * * * *

Although a great many Rugby matches have been played during the Christmas and New Year's holidays few of them have been of great interest, as in most cases clubs are unable to muster the whole of their regular teams during the festive season. In London there will be no match of importance until the return between Blackheath and the London Scottish on the 11th inst.

* * * * *

The Middlesex County team, by failing to beat Somersetshire on Saturday last, has not improved its chance of receiving the County Championship. Yorkshire will play Somersetshire on Saturday at Wellington, and Kent at York on Monday. If the Northerners win both these matches it will be no easy matter to decide on their claims to the championship as compared with Middlesex. Altogether the contest is sadly in need of some better system of organization, for it is by no means satisfactory that the title should depend on the votes of the Rugby Union Committee.

* * * * *

The annual Christmas tour of the Corinthians—the crack amateur Association club—has not been altogether a fortunate one. They were beaten not only by their old antagonists, Preston North End, but by Durham County. The hard frozen grounds on which these games were played made the issue very much a matter of luck. To my mind it is questionable whether football ought to be played at all when the ground is hard. One of the Preston men sustained a fracture of the collarbone on Saturday, and two or three of the Corinthians were more or less injured in subsequent games. A great many of the football accidents reported are due to the persistency with which footballers pursue their game when hunting men are wisely idle.

* * * * *

On Wednesday the Corinthians consoled themselves for their former failures by beating Queen's Park, the premier club of Scotland, which had not sustained a single defeat since the beginning of the season. An immense crowd of holiday-makers, estimated at about 15,000 persons, witnessed the game. The ground was in fair condition, and the visitors had a good opportunity of displaying all their science. The score was four goals to one in their favour.

* * * * *

The race for the championship of the League is becoming a very close one, Everton having materially reduced the lead of Preston North End by beating them on their own ground. These clubs, together with the Blackburn Rovers, will probably make a very exciting fight of it.

M. P.

for such a distance without probable damage to his load. Indeed, 60 per cent. suffer loss or damage by water or exposure. This slow and primitive means of communication in a country like this offers the greatest facilities for the perpetration of the constant thefts that add considerably to the many disadvantages trade experiences in this country."

HOW WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE ALL THAT.

"And will the Chinde change all this?"—"It ought to," replied Mr. Rankin. "The bar of this river, of which I made the first survey last February, has a perfectly navigable channel. There was during last rainy season three fathoms of water lowest spring tide, with a channel 500 yards broad, and with good sheltered anchorage. The soundings of H.M.S. *Stork* during this month, which is the dry season, give 7 feet lowest water, and this depth doubtless shows the minimum amount of water. With a rise of 15 to 16 feet, this will allow of the steamers used on the east coast entering the river. Supposing that any difficulty should arise to prevent crossing the bar, the coast steamer can, without difficulty arise or danger, anchor outside in four fathoms during nine months in the year, and can load and unload from and into lighters that should be towed out by a small steamer to be used for this purpose. We rarely have here the rollers and rough sea that obtains along the Natal coast, where this means of discharging cargo is in places always used. This cheap and rapid communication with the sea by means of the Chinde river should give a great development to the resources of the rich country drained by the Zambesi."

"And another great advantage will be," continued Mr. Rankin, "that trade by this route will not have to pass through Portuguese territory. Hitherto the six or eight miles of swamp which have to be traversed by the Quilimane route gave the Portuguese a hold, and heavy duties are imposed." (Readers of Professor Drummond's popular book on "Tropical Africa" will remember the disgust with which he records having been required to pay money to Portugal both for getting into the country and for getting out.)

THE PIRATE-PRINCES OF THE ZAMBESI.

"Then you do not love the Portuguese—like some recent correspondents of the *Pall Mall Gazette*?"—"No," said Mr. Rankin, "I really cannot bear out what those correspondents say; I know the region too well. The Portuguese officials are right enough, and to me personally they have been most kind; but their authority over the inferior is either a scandal or a shadow."

"How so?"—"I will tell you all about it," said Mr. Rankin, "and tell you only what I can personally vouch for. The whole of the Zambesi region immediately bordering upon the waterway over which the Portuguese claim jurisdiction is portioned out into large and vaguely-defined estates called prazos. These are let out in most cases to Portuguese subjects for a term of lease. The holders of these estates exercise almost unlimited powers in the civil government of their properties, and are rarely or never interfered with by the Colonial Government. A large number of these prazos are held by half-castes, especially higher up the river. A system of enforced labour is carried out in which the native is supposed to receive a fixed wage, but as there are many clauses which make certain employment obligatory without remuneration, it is often the case that the only wage apportioned to the unfortunate after leaving his task is the lash. These half-castes have been named the 'Zambesi Princes.'"

"How do they enforce their princedom?"—"Why, through the periodical tributes of firearms supplied them by the Portuguese Government they have been able to constitute themselves a terror and a scourge to traders and merchants using the river. These river princes have on several occasions blocked the river to trade and commerce. Indeed, for a period of four years and more they have cut off the Portuguese settlement of Tete from all communication with the coast. And even as late as last year they were successful in blocking the waterway for two or more months. Craft passing up to Tete are frequently black-mailed and otherwise robbed by these people. As you may imagine, the result of the actions of these licensed marauders has been fatal to the development of trade in those districts."

PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY: A SCANDAL OR A SHADOW.

"But you do not maintain," asked our representative, "that Portugal is responsible for this state of things?"—"I hope not," said Mr. Rankin, "and that is what I meant by saying that their authority was either a scandal or a shadow. Either they are responsible for a scandalous state of things, or they are not responsible, and thus have at best only the shadow of authority. But the fact is that Portugal winks at what goes on. In order to retain the alliance and friendship of these half-castes the Portuguese Government has supplied them with many thousands of firearms and kegs of powder. These, as they are well aware, will invariably be employed for purposes utterly opposed to the advancement of civilization or the freedom of the natives. Even during the present year, when Portugal was supposed to be instituting a rigorous blockade, I saw many cases of rifles removed from a Custom-house on the Zambesi for these Zambesi chiefs."

SLAVE-DRIVING ON THE ZAMBESI.

"And the enforced labour on these Zambesi farms is, you say, practically slavery?"—"Certainly, and this slavery is rife not only on the upper waters of the Zambesi, but even in the immediate vicinity of Quilimane there are prazos that are even now worked by slave-labour. Every year large caravans of slaves, mostly owned by Swahilis, are brought from the Nyassa region, and absorbed into these districts. I myself have seen a large slave caravan, within three days' journey of the seat of the Government, waiting to dispose of its living merchandise over the Portuguese estates."

"What sort of slave-labour is it?"—"The unfortunates are set to work in gangs of ten or twenty men, women, and children. Each of these is presided over by a negro who, armed with a lash, is only too eager to demonstrate his authority. A Conceiçao I saw a middle-aged woman who had a heavy child on her back, and after working at road-making, for which she would receive no wages, from early dawn to sunset, finally fell down on her knees utterly worn-out and burst into tears. But this did not save her from a severe lashing from the brutal fellow who had, under an umbrella, been goading her on during the broiling mid-day heat. Such cases are not exceptional; they are, on the other hand, of everyday occurrence."

Mr. Rankin then went on to describe the lawless doings of the so-called soldiers, mostly West-coast negroes, sent by the Portuguese over the districts on the Lower Zambesi and Shiré. "I asked one poor fellow," he said, who had been stabbed through the body by the bayonet of one of these wantonly brutal soldiers for remonstrating when the mother of his little child was being ill-used before his eyes," why he did not complain to the authorities. He looked at me in amazement. 'Ah, master,' he replied, the tears trickling down his wasting cheeks 'if I so much as moved my tongue I should be sent off to die in Angola.' Poor fellow, he did not live long enough to be sent to Angola, the Botany Bay of the natives, for soon after his wretched wife and little child buried him. This is a domestic episode far too common in this land of Portuguese blight."

BACK TO THE "LAND OF BLIGHT!"

"But I have said quite enough already," Mr. Rankin bravely went on, "let me into hot water with the Portuguese when I go out there again."—"Then you are going back to the 'land of blight' after all?"—"Oh, yes," said Mr. Rankin, "I cannot stand English life. I like to be out of doors and to have sport. Here one has to live in houses, but the whole of last year I was living under canvas."—"And the fever, does that suit you too?"—"Oh, I don't have the fever."—"But you have had it, of course?" I thought the fever was as unavoidable even as the Portuguese Customs."—"Yes, I have had it once, four years ago, but since then I have been perfectly well." And Mr. Rankin certainly looked as if his six years on the Zambesi had agreed with him.

THOM'S "OFFICIAL DIRECTORY," 1890.

This useful reference-book, published in the Irish capital, makes its forty-seventh appearance. All its sections have received the customary attention, so far as can be judged by a hasty inspection. "Thom's" well-arranged list of "peerage, baronetage, knightage, &c.," given alphabetically, without embarrassing distinctions between the three classes, is always a specially convenient compilation, and one is sometimes inclined to wish the adoption of its alphabetical arrangement in other works of the kind. The Dublin information (with map of the city and its surroundings) might well be published separately, so as to reduce the bulk of this indispensable addition to the large number of reference books which should be kept ready to hand.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The speech of King Carlos in opening the Cortes yesterday does not throw much light on the progress of the dispute between Portugal and this country. The King is determined to maintain his rights over those parts of African territory, he says, "which the Portuguese were the first to discover, traverse, and open up to the missions of Christianity and to the operations of commerce, and in which the Portuguese authorities have exercised jurisdiction and influence according to the social condition of their inhabitants, acts which are sufficient to establish incontestable possession." But the question is, What are "those parts of African territory" which answer to the King's description? No one disputes the right of Portugal to the lower regions of the Zambesi; but as for the Shiré Highlands and Nyassaland, they were first effectually discovered by English travellers, the Christian missions there established are English, and the operations of commerce in them are in the hands of English companies. As, on the other hand, the Portuguese authorities have not exercised any jurisdiction in these regions whatever, it follows from the King's own reasoning, apart altogether from the events of the last few months, that the "incontestable possession" belongs not to Portugal, but to England.

"Influence according to the social condition of their inhabitants" is a good phrase, convenient for covering a multitude of sins—such, for instance, as those described by Mr. Rankin in another column. Meanwhile, if Mr. Rankin's calculations with regard to the navigability of the Chinde river are correct, the net effect of our interview with him will be to increase the regret that the "dead treaty" with Portugal cannot be revived. It would be galling, no doubt, to the African Lakes Company and the Scottish missionaries to see Portuguese authority established *de jure* in any regions where it has never existed *de facto*. But a certain amount of give and take is necessary in this wicked world; and with a free route up the Zambesi, as well as an uninterrupted line of communications between the Cape and Lake Tanganyika, Mr. Johnston's treaty of partition would have secured to England the substance of all she wants.

As for Mr. Rankin's charges against the Portuguese for conniving at something very like slavery, we must be careful not to give ourselves too great airs in the matter. For what is this that the Rev. Horace Waller says in this morning's *Times*? Referring to the status of Mr. Stanley's porters, he says:—

> This vast expedition—which has been watched and prayed for half over Africa manned by Englishmen in a great measure, and sustained mainly by English money, has had a retinue of robed Zanzibar slaves as carriers.

Of course Mr. Waller may be mistaken, and, of course, it may be contended that the end justified the means. But, at any rate, there is enough in this business to give us pause before condemning others too uncharitably.

It is "the duty of Conservative clubs," said Sir Michael Hicks-Beach at Leamington yesterday, to show "the Socialists and Secularists" that "in hereditary rank or hereditary legislation there is a kind of necessity for noble thoughts and noble deeds." It is a very queer "kind," we are afraid. Hereditary rank ought to ensure noble deeds, of course: *noblesse oblige*. But does it? Sir Michael Hicks-Beach should be thankful that he was not greeted with cries of "Cleveland-street."

The Americans are determined to thoroughly alarm the public with respect to the dangers of electric lighting. Dogs, horses, and humans are being knocked down, shocked to death, or roasted alive. With that power of picturesque description which American journalists possess, we lose none of the ghastly details. As we on this side have had no such experiences, we are inclined to believe that the dangers are due to the reckless methods followed by the electricians on the other side. Mr. Edison has given it out that not only the workmanship but the systems are at fault; but the news that one of his own stations in New York was burned down yesterday will add weight to a challenge just made by competing companies. While asserting that conductors carrying high-tension alternating currents have been and can be safely and successfully operated underground, they allege that the Edison underground system is dangerous in the extreme because of its leakages.

The *Morning Advertiser* suggests, *à propos* of the Strand Improvement Scheme, that if occupiers are to be taxed for "betterment," they should also be compensated for what we suppose we must call "worsement." As an instance of the latter our contemporary cites the proposal of the County Council to abolish the gates and bars on the Bedford Estate. But is this really a "worsement"? The gates and bars are often quite as inconvenient to those who are locked in as to those who are locked out. And as for "the conversion of a quiet square into a crowded thoroughfare," the local authorities might easily compensate the occupiers by laying down wood or asphalte.

The interviewer who writes enthusiastically of his art in another column treats fully enough of one branch of the subject, but leaves some other branches unnoticed. He justifies the interview as the handmaid of history, in which character it is no doubt most interesting; but another article might be written upon what are perhaps its most important functions, namely, those of news-gathering and of interpreting. Matthew Arnold said that the object of criticism was to ascertain the best ideas current at the time. Similarly the object of the interview, in one of its functions, is to collect the best information on current topics. The "signed article" and the interview are in this aspect different means to the same end. But in many cases the interview is far the better of the two; for some men are as full of information as they are devoid of delivering it in an articulate fashion. It is here that the function of the interviewer as interpreter comes in. This side of the interview is still very far from being fully developed. The literature of the future—the literature, that is, of information, as distinct from the literature of style—will be largely composed of interviews.

Amongst the deaths of 1889 we have to chronicle that of the possessor of a much-coveted monopoly. He was at the very head of his profession, which was conducted under the most favourable conditions and yielded considerable returns. No other European was protected by the same patronage or enjoyed the same privileges. He was a beggar, a Roman, proud of the city in which he was born and of the craft of which he was master. It was the opinion of Charles Dickens that Italian beggars ranked first in the world, and he was himself inclined to give the palm for mendacious mendicity to a small coterie who infested the sward of Pisa and conducted you from the campanile to the cathedral and from the cathedral to the baptistery. A generation has passed away since Dickens described them, but the Pisan beggars are as active as ever. The head of the profession was till last month in Rome. A great many years ago Pio Nono made an exception in his favour and allowed him to stand within the doors of St. Peter's and get what he could from devotees or tourists. The death of his old patron was almost a calamity for him. But Leo XIII. respected vested interests, and Marcollini's rights to levy a voluntary toll were recognized and continued. He was a model beggar, with a certain dignity in his alms-asking, his costume suggesting charity rather than obtrusively claiming it, and his actual appeals were never repeated or emphasized. People got a habit of supposed he must have had expensive habits. His receipts were in pence, and he has only left behind £2,000.

In connection with Mr. Carnegie's "Gospel of Wealth," and his exhortation to millionaires to endow galleries and museums, we extract from an article by Mr. Huish in the *Nineteenth Century* the following list of such benefactions made in the last decade:—

Name of donor.	Place benefited.	Buildings.	Pictures or money.
F. Clarke	National Gallery	—	£24,000
W. White	British Museum	£100,000	25,000
Anonymous	National Portrait Gallery	—	28,000
J. H. N. Sidgfield	Birmingham	250,000	
John Jones	South Kensington	—	35,000
John Turton	York	15,000	100,000
Newton Maprin	Sheffield	—	5,000
Lady C. Schreiber	South Kensington Museum	—	10,000
J. L. Walker	National Gallery	20,000	25,000
P. Horsman and others	Wolverhampton	—	25,000
A. Macdonald	Aberdeen	10,000	
J. Keiller	Dundee	—	10,000
Sir F. Mappin	Sheffield	47,000	
Sir J. Whitworth	Manchester	—	10,000
Sir A. Walker	Liverpool	100,000	15,000
E. Harris	Preston	—	50,000
R. Newsham	Hastings	1,000	
Lord Brassey	National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh	40,000	10,000
R. Findlay		347,500	559,000

A sum of nearly a million sterling has, it will be seen, been made over to Museums and Galleries by private munificence during the last ten years.

M. de Blowitz held out hopes to us the other day that the era of peace was about to dawn because war had now become so enormously expensive. The declaration of a European war would, he calculated, mean an immediate expenditure of millions. At the other extreme, despondent persons tell us that the armed peace will soon give way to war, because the cost of military armaments has all but, if not quite, reached a point too grievous to be borne. This, it is worth noting, is not the opinion of Mr. Giffen, who in his last paper to the Statistical Society made the following remarks on the subject:—

> Heavy as the burdens are, does not the vast amount of property relatively indic te that the point of exhaustion may be mo e remote than is commonly supposed? To treat this topi suitably would re uire a paper by itself, which I hope to write some day; but it may be useful now to hint at the conclusions I am disposed to arrive at. The relativity of the burden of military armaments has been too little considered, I fear, by economists who have denounced them in the abstra t, and whose denunciations have, in fact, been falsified by the continued prosperity of the countries which ought to have been ruined, but were not.

Mr. Giffen, if less encouraging than the prophets of peace, is at any rate more so than the prophets of war.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TORY SCREW AT CREWE.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Few, probably, have occasion to spend £170 a year in railway fares and charges; but as "Many a mickle makes a muckle," I intend to follow the excellent example of your correspondent "Mercator," and to travel whenever practicable, and even if at some inconvenience, by an alternative route to that of the North Western, unless the shareholders take measures to expel party politics from the management of that great line; or unless the strong *primâ facie* evidence of the truth of the charges made against their officials in this respect is conclusively rebutted. If many others do likewise, it is possible that this contemptible tyranny may be abated.—Yours obediently (with card enclosed),

ONE OF THE PUBLIC.

London, New Year's Day, 1890.

AN AUTOLYCAN JEST.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—The sketch of the babies tossed in a blanket, to serve as models of angels for a painter, is an old acquaintance. It is not American, but Bavarian. It has been pirated (like some other American comic pictures) from the Munich *Fliegende Blätter*. What American wit there is in it is purely Autolycan, and lies in the stealing.

T. HANCOCK.

BROWNING AND CARLYLE.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—It seems as if a *mot d'ordre* had gone forth that the eulogies on Browning should be enlivened with the old girds against Carlyle. Surely your two columns of reminiscences call for a word of protest on this score. Carlyle's conversation and letters are characterized as "cynical, vitriolic, splenetic, and unjust," whilst Mr. Browning had so "beautifully large and charitable" a judgment, that your correspondent thinks he might have even heard Mr. Tupper's name mentioned without ridiculing him. But what about the "judgment" that compares a prosperous poet to whom blank cheques came begging to be filled in, who lived in a palace in Venice, and semi-palatially in South Kensington, who loved and was beloved by society, who could dine out every night for three weeks and get up unimpaired every morning afterwards, with a vast overburdened soul, half Hebrew prophet, half Teuton savage, crushed to earth by poverty, nerves, loneliness, and a hundred petty tortures, and driven to live in a sound-proof chamber in a back street in Chelsea with dyspepsia and—Mrs. Carlyle for life long companions! What wonder that when he got his Prophets of Baal beside Kishon, and stones were handy, he let not one of them escape. No room in that stormful life for all this chatter about "a large allowance for good intentions."—I am, &c.,

A. F.

MILL, TENNYSON, AND BROWNING.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—I read in your issue of last evening a story about Robert Browning which I heard from his own lips some twenty years ago in a rather different and, I imagine, a more correct form. In 1833 Mr. Browning published his first poem, "Pauline." At that time the *Monthly Repository* was edited by Mr. Fox, a well-known critic, and one of the contributors was John Stuart Mill. Mill had just reviewed in this periodical the poem of Alfred Tennyson, of which a recent volume had appeared in the winter of 1832. It is generally admitted that this appreciative review laid the foundation of Tennyson's public reputation. Mill had come across "Pauline," and, being much struck by its power and originality, requested permission to review it in the *Repository*. He was informed that it had already been noticed. After a diligent search he found at the end of a miscellaneous column the two words, "Pauline—balderdash." He asked the writer whether he had really conceived a bad idea of the book, and was told in reply that he had not read it, but that a few words of "copy" being required to complete the page, he had taken the first little bit that came to hand, and finding that it was poetry, and that he could not understand it, had written the two fatal words. Mr. Browning added that this unfortunate occurrence had perhaps delayed his recognition for ten years, as an appreciative article of Mill's might have done for him what it had done for Tennyson.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

January 1. OSCAR BROWNING.

AN INTERVIEWER IN PRAISE OF INTERVIEWING.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY MR. HARRY FURNISS.

THAT the "interview" is daily gaining ground cannot (write a correspondent) be denied, but that the popular prejudice against the system is still very strong is equally a matter of fact. And yet the interview, carried out with all due regard to delicate reserve, is not only a distinct gain to the society of to-day, but to posterity it will be of inconceivable value. For in his way the interviewer is a preserver of contemporary history. He presents in a fresh, simple, and natural manner the opinions, the *ipsissima verba*, the appearance, the surroundings of the men of the day, the men who, in however small a way it may be, yet are the makers of history. Many things that would otherwise go down to succeeding generations as inexplicable mysteries would by the interviewer be elucidated and made plain for all time. What would we not give to possess records of interviews with the immortals who have long since crumbled into dust? It was because "Bozzy" was in reality a born "interviewer" that he produced a biography that excels in interest every other biography on earth. No historian that ever lived has been able to give us such a vivid, living picture of his time and surroundings and contemporaries as has old Sam Pepys in his immortal Diary. Imagine had but the interviewer lived in the days of good Queen Bess, how much of undying interest would attach itself to his articles. "Our representative called on Mr. William Shakspeare this morning. Curious to say, the great man appeared ill at ease and confused in manner. This was subsequently explained by Lord Bacon, who was sitting writing in the next room, calling out, 'Now, Will, I've finished "Hamlet;" all you have to do is to sign your name.'" And so, as Mr. Harry Furniss, to whom, as a much interviewed man, amongst others I appealed for an opinion concerning the system, represents in what he pleased to term a few rough "notes" an interviewer would have at once settled the question "Did Bacon write Shakspeare's plays?" But, despite all the undoubted historical value of interviews, there is yet a strong prejudice against the system. I am confident that much of the blame for this must be fastened upon those enterprising journalists who in "another place" invented and at the same time so shamefully abused the system. The typical interviewer exists in the minds of many as a kind of Paul Pry, who, much as Mr. Furniss exhibits him in the accompanying sketch,



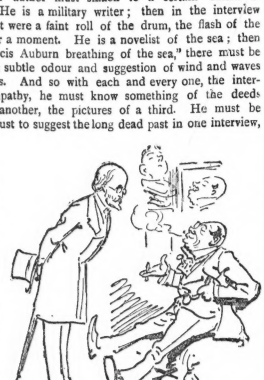
HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.



NO. 1.—THE POPULAR IDEA.

invades the inner sanctum of some delicate, refined, scholarly recluse, bent on extracting from him every single detail of his most private life. Ignorant, prying wretch that this, I fain would hope, entirely fictitious person is, he drags from his trembling victim a few timorous remarks, which are forthwith woven into an article, the vulgarity and glaring untruthfulness of which are only equalled by its hopeless lack of all that is really refined, appreciative, or even intelligent. To such a monster nothing is sacred, nothing is holy, and from such a person can nothing be kept hidden. All is laid bare, witheringly naked and bare. Every trivial word and action, each little household god, every sacred home detail becomes manifest to a gaping world. This is, I verily believe, a scarcely exaggerated picture of the interviewer as he exists in the mind and imagination of many people.

But such mere "auctioneers' appraisers" one would fain hope are very rare, for the interviewer who would really, honestly, and from a lofty standpoint do his duty must be a widely different person. In the first place, then, and undoubtedly, he must be a gentleman, a man of the world, cultured, refined, widely read, and of broad sympathies. For around each "subject," in his description, he has to throw the proper "environment," to use a scientific term. On one day the "subject" may be an aged man of science or of reli_on, or art or of literature, whose name was of world-wide fame before even his interviewer was born. In that case the interviewer must remember that he is in the presence of a man upon whose brilliant day the night is fast closing in, the veil that screens so beautiful a life must be lifted but for a brief moment, and that with all reverence. Or it may fall to his lot to interview a smart novelist, or a clever society artist, or a successful theatrical manager. He must be well up in the novelist's books, and in the opinions both of the public and of the critics of those books. And if the portrait is in any way to be a successful one, his description of that author must smack to a certain extent of that author's writings. He is a military writer; then in the interview one must just catch as it were a faint roll of the drum, the flash of the bayonet must sparkle for a moment. He is a novelist of the sea; then like Tennyson's "Francis Auburn breathing of the sea," there must be round him, too, a faint subtle odour and suggestion of wind and waves and storm-beaten shores. And so with each and every one, the interviewer must be in sympathy, he must know something of the deeds of one, the works of another, the pictures of a third. He must be able to understand and just to suggest the long dead past in one interview, he must be intensely of "to-day" and in the immediate present, if not indeed almost in the future, in his dealings with another. He must ever possess a firm grasp of actualities, a vivid power of description, and yet delicate and free from all taint of vulgarity. He must never give offence; indeed the very contrary must be the case, for he must please equally his "subject," his paper, and his readers.



NO. 2.—THE REVERSE OF THE POPULAR IDEA.

His temper, too, must be quite in his own control, for although, be it gladly acknowledged, he is usually treated with the greatest possible courtesy, yet are there moments when, as depicted in Mr. Furniss's last sketch, the popular idea is for once reversed and the Interviewer, such as I have pictured he ought to be, finds himself in the presence of a being who, by reason of a temporary success, has obtained a hold of the public interest, and yet is of a nature to make even the self-contained interviewer and man of the world shrink from him with irrepressible and scarcely hidden loathing.

PROFESSOR MURRAY'S NOVEL*

WHY Professor Murray should call his romance "A Story of Three Songs" we cannot for the life of us divine. Within a few pages of the end we find a string of verses, which may be counted either one song or four according to the reader's taste and fancy, but certainly not three; and even supposing these verses to be the songs referred to, we are at a loss to know what connection they have with the narrative. Can there be a misprint on the title-page? Does the author mean "A Story of Three *Sorts*"—for that would really describe the book. It combines the novel of sentiment, the romance of adventure, and the fantastic satire, blending "Ariadne" with "She," and "She" with "Erewhon." This confusion of forms is the chief defect of the book, which is interesting in spite of it. The author has not quite made up his mind what he would be at, and never gives his whole strength to what he has in hand. At no point does he produce the illusion of reality, because it is clear that he himself is never subject to it. Some isolated scenes and episodes are vivid and graphic enough, but there is no continuity of imaginative impetus. We never surrender ourselves into the story-teller's hands, giving him, as it were, a blank cheque on our credulity. He has to make a new draft upon the fund at each new departure, and he sometimes does it with an air of humorous deprecation which seems to say, "I know my demand is unreasonable, but after all, I only do it for the fun of the thing." Still, Mr. Murray is an ingenious, thoughtful, and entertaining writer. If he had only fenced it round better, so as to account more credibly for the fact that no rumour of its existence has reached the outside world, his Greek city in Central Asia would be a quite legitimate figment of romance. The glimpses vouchsafed us of its manners and polity are interesting enough to make us wish that Mr. Murray had given more space to the "Erewhon" element in his conception; or perhaps we should say the Gulliver element, for the benefit of readers who may not be familar with Mr. Samuel Butler's ingenious satire. Mr. Murray, by the way, eludes the chief difficulty of his theme by causing Aripharon to be interrupted just as he is about to explain to Mavrones how the wise Hellenes deal with the population question. In the purely adventurous part of the book there are many striking passages, such as Trenchi's narrative of his experiences on the way to the Greek city, the revolt of the Sanni, and the ride through the desert. The characters of Trenchi and Mavrones are by no means ill-drawn; Baj is very shadowy; Clearista little better; and the rest are mere grotesques, touched-in with more or less spirit and humour. In one effort of characterization, Mr. Murray has been singularly, almost fatally, successful. The irrepressible Wibbling is intended to be an arid bore; and an arid bore he assuredly is.

* "Gobi or Shamo; a Story of Three Songs." By G. G. A. Murray. (Longmans, Green, and Co.)

THE BRAZILIAN RUBBER MONOPOLY.

ENGLISH as well as French and American firms engaged in the rubber trade are taking steps to effectively protest against the extraordinary arrangement which the Government of the Brazilian province of Para has entered into with a native company in order to establish, if possible, a monopoly. The intervention of the respective Governments has been or will be asked, and although there may be great reluctance to intervene in business affairs, those aggrieved are not without hope that some official remonstrance may be addressed to the Provisional Government at Rio against this unfair treatment of foreign firms. Indeed M. Spuller and Mr. Blaine have already sent protests, and the aggrieved English houses are drawing up a petition to Lord Salisbury praying for his intervention. What the trade say is that today it is rubber and to-morrow it may be coffee or any other important article of commerce, so that very large interests are at stake. The concession has been granted under very questionable circumstances. For instance, the Governor of the province under the Republican régime is said to be a director of the Companhia Mercantil, with which the arrangement has been made. Baron Vianna, who is Portuguese and not French, and acquired his title in some way in Lisbon, is the moving spirit in the affair. His previous attempts to control the rubber market from Europe were not so successful as to create any confidence that he will succeed on this occasion, but meanwhile the trade will be seriously disturbed.

The export of rubber from Para is very considerable. The season extends from July to the end of June, and in the year ending June, 1889, 16,000 tons, in round numbers, were shipped. The amount has increased every year since 1881, when the shipments were only 8,635 tons, or little more than a half. This represents a value of something like four and a half millions sterling. Fully one-half of the Para exports is taken by the United States, and the rest by Europe, the bulk coming to England. As the Brazilian supply about equals that from all other parts of the world—the west coast of Africa, Borneo, Sumatra, and Assam—merchants and manufacturers in this country place great dependence upon it. The export duty hitherto levied has been 22 per cent., which has been divided between the central and the provincial governments. The new levy will be an addition of 1 per cent., which is to go into the cash-box of the Companhia Mercantil. This will probably amount to £35,000 per annum, in return for which the price is to be maintained at 2,500 reis per kilogramme. During the past year the quotation in England has ranged from 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* per lb., averaging about 2*s.* 10*d.* With the exchange at 25*d.* per milreis as at present, the price would according to the arrangement be brought up to 3*s.* 3*d.* per lb. The question is, Can it be done? These artificial arrangements always fail, and the trade believe this will be no exception. The company's means are not great, and it is only one of a number, and by no means the largest exporting house.

The rubber is collected all along the banks of the Amazon and its tributaries, and sent by steamers to Para, where it is packed and shipped. The receivers in Para find the money for fitting out the collectors, who go up the country early in the year. An incision is made in the stem of the *siphonia elastica*, a noble tree, growing to a height of sixty feet, and the milky juice is received in a cup of clay placed under the wound. About four ounces daily flows from each tree. The juice is then placed in cans, and the collector proceeds to prepare it for market. He dips a club into the milk when so much of it adheres, and this is held over a fire made of nuts, which gives off a heavy drying smoke. The process is repeated until there is a sufficient thickness of rubber, when it is cut off. This is the Brazilian method, and the care taken secures such a degree of purity that Para rubber takes a foremost place in the market.

The annual imports of caoutchouc into England amount to about 11,000 tons, of which in round figures 6,500 comes from Para. It is used in the manufacture of quite a host of industrial products, such as waterproof clothing, carriage springs, tyres and axles, tarpaulins, air-cushions, valves, pistons, saddlery, portable baths, combs, and toys, so that it has almost outgrown the memory of its original use, that of rubbing out pencil marks, from which it derived its name.

Notwithstanding the potential auriferous wealth of South Africa the exports of gold from this country thither during 1889 were two and a quarter millions, being more than half a million in excess of the gold received from that quarter.

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INTERESTING RESULT OF A GOVERNMENT ORDER

The directors of Bailey, Nokes, and Co., Birmingham, "in view of being extensively employed upon Government orders, and being desirous of enlisting the best efforts of the staff in carrying out the work, are glad to announce the following resolution," which has been posted up at their works:—"Every manager (other than a director), foreman, clerk, workman, or workwoman employed in the company's factories, will in future share in the profits of the business to the extent of 25 per cent. of the surplus net profit, after paying 10 per cent. to the shareholders. The division will be made annually, *pro rata*, in addition to the wages received during the year, and, when possible, facilities will be afforded for the recipients becoming shareholders, if they so desire. In the event of any employe leaving before the end of a financial year, such share may be divided at the close of the year among the then employes of the company."

£10,000 BEQUEATHED TO A BLACKSMITH.

A blacksmith named Barber, living at Albury, near Guildford, has just obtained a windfall of £10,000.

THE STRAND RATEPAYERS AND STRAND IMPROVEMENTS.

At a meeting of the Strand ratepayers a resolution was adopted condemning the Strand Improvement Bill, promoted by the London County Council, on the ground that it was objectionable both in principle and detail, inasmuch as it treated the widening of this thoroughfare as a local instead of as a national question, and sought to apply to owners and occupiers of adjacent properties an arbitrary and strained system of taxation.

THE PICTURES BURNT AT THE LAEKEN PALACE.

The Laeken Palace was the property of the State, and therefore was not insured. The objects belonging to the Royal family were insured for £110,000. A considerable quantity of silver plate has been saved from destruction. The correspondence of Leopold I. is a great loss to history. The principal paintings burnt are a Hobbema, formerly in the Taylor collection in London, a number of examples of Vandyck, Hals, Ingres, and Leys.

THE ILLNESS OF MR. T. C. ELLIS, M.P.

Mr. Brunner, M.P., having received a telegram from Northwich that his son, Mr. Sydney Brunner, is now out of danger, has replied from Cairo that he is returning up the Nile to Luxor, to nurse Mr T. C. Ellis, M.P., his private secretary and travelling companion, who is down with malarial fever at Luxor.

DEATH OF MRS. SHIPLEY ELLIS

Mrs. Edward Shipley Ellis, widow of the late chairman of the Midland Railway Company, and mother of Mr. J. E. Ellis, M.P. for the Rushcliffe division of Nottingham, died at Leicester rather suddenly late last night. The deceased lady was one of the most prominent quakeresses in the county. She took a leading part in temperance work. She was in her eighty-first year. Two children survive her.

The lioness "Queen" in Wombwell's menagerie, at present exhibiting in Sheffield, was found dead in the cage yesterday.

Dr. Westland Marston, the author of "The Patrician's Daughter," "Strathmore," and other well-known plays, is lying seriously ill of Bright's disease at his residence in the Euston-road.

With reference to a remark in the article from the *Church Review* which we quoted yesterday, it is reported this morning that some time back, when the newspapers took to the daily announcement that Mr. Gladstone attended morning prayers in Hawarden Church, he requested a certain Press Agency to stop the practice.

NOTICES.

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FIFTH EDITION.

A NEW SECRET SOCIETY IN RUSSIA.

THIRTY-TWO OFFICERS ARRESTED.

According to the Vienna correspondent of the *Times* thirty-two officers have been arrested at St. Petersburg on the charge of having formed a secret society with the object of abolishing the autocratic régime and founding a Constitutional Monarchy.

An Exchange Company's telegram from Paris says:—Intelligence received viâ Vienna announces the arrest at Warsaw of the Nihilist chief Pierra Gross revolutionary pamphlets and letters compromising several officers were found upon him.

LORD SALISBURY DECIDEDLY BETTER.

All the advices from Hatfield regarding the Marquis of Salisbury are satisfactory. Yesterday morning it was reported that the Prime Minister had passed a good night, and was decidedly improved, while a message last evening stated that his lordship was much better. Dr. Douglas Powell left Hatfield House yesterday for London, on the understanding that it would not be necessary to return before to-morrow.

The *Freeman's Journal* London correspondent says:—I hear that Lord Salisbury himself and his medical advisers are convinced that the influenza infection was conveyed to him in despatches he recently received from the St. Petersburg and Paris Embassies which were written when the Ambassadors in both places were suffering from the complaint themselves. The fact that a considerable number of the officials in the Foreign Office who have to read and handle letters and documents coming from these two capitals have also contracted the complaint, while those employed in other work have escaped, goes far to strengthen the Prime Minister's theory as to the origin of his attack.

RESIGNATION OF SENOR SAGASTA.

A Reuter's telegram from Madrid to-day says:—A Ministerial crisis exists here, Senor Sagasta having tendered to the Queen Regent his resignation and that of his Ministerial colleagues. Senor Sagasta will endeavour to form a new Cabinet on the basis of a reconciliation between the different groups of the Liberal party.

EXCITEMENT IN THE IRON MARKET.

On re-opening to-day after the New Year holiday, the Glasgow pig iron market was very excited, and a big business was done in consequence of favourable reports from the Midlands. Outside speculators dabbling in warrants and bears, covering largely caused the price of Scotch to rise from 64*s*. to 65*s*. 11*d*. cash, this being the highest price attained since the "boom" commenced. Middlesbrough advanced 2*s*. 6*d*., and Hematite improved from 78*s*. 4½*d*. to 81*s*. 3*d*. cash. Sellers are now (mid-day) offering 80*s*. 10½*d*. cash.

FIRE IN A TRAINING COLLEGE.

A fire broke out about half-past two o'clock this morning at St. John's Training College, York. An alarm was quickly given, and the fire brigade was quickly on the spot; but the flames were not subdued until considerable damage was done. The students were away on their holidays.

SIR FRANCIS DE WINTON'S RETURN TO ENGLAND.

Sir Francis de Winton left Durban yesterday for Cape Town, whence he will proceed to England on the 15th inst. in the *Grantully Castle.—Reuter.*

DETERMINED SUICIDE OF A WILLESDEN GENTLEMAN.

This morning a gentleman of independent means, named David Charles Lusby, aged forty-six, residing at "The Beeches," Warm lane, Willesden, committed suicide in a most determined manner. Deceased left his bed, and taking a pin-fire rifle placed the muzzle in his mouth and discharged it with his foot, blowing the top of the skull completely away. The deceased was discovered shortly after by Mrs. Lusby and her servant maid.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A MINISTER.

At Workington the Rev. Charles Burrows, Congregational minister, and an ardent temperance advocate, was charged by a publican named Hargreaves with poaching. Hargreaves occupied land under the Corporation, and the town clerk gave defendant's son permission to ferret the hedges. The defendant accompanied his sons, and Hargreaves summoned him. The defence was that Burrows was summoned because of spite against him by the local publicans. The bench, after a long consultation, fined the defendant one shilling. The case created great excitement.

THE QUASHED IRISH CONVICTIONS.

The *Freeman's Journal* says:—The Fates were leagued yesterday against the Removables. Judge Waters, in Waterford, quashed convictions representing 12 or 14 months' imprisonment; and Judge Kelly, in Clare, reduced a sentence passed on a Protestant Nationalist from six months to one month's imprisonment. Judge Waters declared it to be against the law to decide that an editor of a paper who published an item of intelligence, connecting it with a person's name, must be held to have intended the publication against that person, and that the publication *ipso facto* proved that he intended to injure or affect that person; and in the case of the farmer Power, who being charged with conspiracy had his sentence supplemented by a rule of bail or further term of imprisonment for two months, Judge Waters declared it would have been just as legal a sentence if their worships had ordered that the defendant should be hanged. The warder in charge of the prisoner did not at once obey the Judge's order to release him, and asked for a written order; and it was only when threatened with imprisonment by the judge that he obeyed.

ERNEST BENZON'S BANKRUPTCY.

MEETING OF CREDITORS TO-DAY.

Nemesis is about to overtake the prodigal. On the 26th of November last a receiving order was made against Mr. Ernest Benzon, author of "How I Lost £250,000." It has apparently been without effect: for, according to the curt phraseology of the official notice to creditors, "the debtor's statement of affairs has not been lodged." To-day some of his creditors—or rather their representatives, for none of them appeared in person—assembled before the Assistant Receiver, in Carey-street, in order to pass a resolution of bankruptcy, appoint a receiver, and nominate a committee of inspection.

The Assistant Receiver first read the names of such creditors as had sent in "proofs" and the amounts owing. There were just a score of them, and the sum owing to them amounted in the aggregate to £6,883, the debts ranging from £2 8*s*. to £4,441 12*s*. Then, looking beamingly upon the company, the Assistant Receiver asked if the debtor was present. "He is in Monte Carlo," cried one, producing a sporting paper in which the fact was chronicled. Mr. Hammond, who appears for Mr. Benzon, neither confirmed nor denied this statement. He simply stated that all communications which had been made to him by the Official Receiver had been duly forwarded to his client.

"The resolution of bankruptcy will of course be unanimous," remarked the Receiver; "and we have nothing to do now but to appoint a receiver." Two gentlemen were nominated for this post—a Mr. Wm. Henry Parnell and a Mr. Laurence Hasluck. The latter, a chartered accountant, was supported on the ground that he knew the West-end of London, Mr. Benzon being (as a solicitor suggested) a West end gentleman with West-end connections. Mr Hasluck was consequently chosen. A committee of inspection of three was also appointed.

Then was mentioned the ominous word "warrant." There seemed to be some doubt whether the prodigal would willingly return to the arms of his sorrowing creditors, and it was understood that the official solicitor had been instructed to apply for a warrant for his arrest. "But," asked somebody, "can we execute this warrant at Monte Carlo?" "I fear not," replied the Receiver, "it is beyond the jurisdiction of the court." "Then will not the issue of the warrant cause him to remain outside the jurisdiction?" asked another.

Here was a dilemma; but Mr. Hammond came to the rescue. He thought that if the warrant were suspended he might induce his client to make some offer. He would at least write to him, and at once. "Then I will ask the official solicitor to stay his hand," replied the Receiver. Some talk about Mr. Benzon's means followed, and it came out that he was entitled, under his father's will, to something like £800 a year. The principal was held by trustees, and he could not alienate a farthing of it. The meeting then came to an end.

Mr. Benzon's public examination is fixed for two o'clock on the 22nd January, and will take place at 34, Lincoln's Inn Fields—provided always, of course, that the prodigal returns in time.

MR. GLADSTONE'S "CONFESSION."

HIS ANSWER TO THE EDITOR OF "MERRY ENGLAND."

The following is the full text of the letter that Mr. Gladstone has addressed to the Editor of *Merry England*:—

"Hawarden, January 1, 1890.

"Dear Mr. Meynell,—I have searched twice, as well as I could, under an extraordinary pressure of public and private engagements, for your letter to which I replied on December 12, 1888, in order that I might thoroughly understand what has puzzled me so much. From some cause I cannot comprehend, the letters of that month are not forthcoming at this time, and I must let the search stand over. But the words you have produced constitute an unequivocal though apparently somewhat reluctant consent to what you had asked. What I do not think I could have agreed to, had I understood it, is the republication of my paper in a periodical devoted however honourably and ably to the interests of a particular religious body, as such a proceeding gives rise to unfounded inferences. In the only intimation which proceeded from me to the press I stated my belief that you were incapable of wilful wrong; and while I hope further to probe the case, I must now in fairness add that the presumptions are on your side, and that your assertion that you explicitly stated the character of your request must outweigh the mere absence of recollection on my part. In these circumstances, I cannot think of offering any objection to your publishing the remainder of the paper in your next number, or to your giving publication to this letter; and if I have troubled you in error I much regret it.—Yours faithfully,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

THE O'SHEA-PARNELL ACTION.—CITATION SERVED.

Mr. Parnell was, at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, served with a citation and petition in the action for divorce brought by Captain O'Shea against his wife, and against Mr. Parnell as co-respondent. The service was effected by Mr. E. F. Day, solicitor to Captain O'Shea, who attended the offices of Messrs. Lewis and Lewis at the above-named hour in response to a communication from them. In the citation the following paragraph appears:—"Now this is to command you that within eight days after service hereof on you, inclusive of the day of such service, you do appear in our said Court, then and there to make answer to the said petition, a copy whereof, sealed with the seal of our said Court, is herewith served upon you. And take notice that in default of your so doing our said Court will proceed to hear the said charge proved in due course of law, and to pronounce sentence therein, your absence notwithstanding."

Captain O'Shea has for the last few days been confined to his house by an attack of influenza. He is, however, progressing satisfactorily towards recovery, and is able to sit up in his apartment.

THE HEALTH OF THE TZAR.

The alarming accounts that have been published concerning the Tzar's health are (says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Chronicle*) greatly exaggerated. His Imperial Majesty has quite recovered from the slight indisposition from which he suffered last week, and he was well enough to be able to visit the theatre on Sunday last.

PERSECUTION AT CREWE.—SUGGESTIVE MEETINGS.

A meeting of the workmen of the London and North-Western Railway Company was held last night in the Crewe Town-hall to consider the charge brought against the officials of that company of using their official position to persecute Liberal workmen. Mr. Robert Williams proposed a resolution condemning the action of those who were trying to disturb the good relations between employers and employed at Crewe. He denied that the officials at Crewe endeavoured to intimidate or persecute any man on account of his politics. Just before the vote was taken there was a row at the back of the room, the chairman and speakers being loudly hissed. The meeting broke up in disorder. An opposition meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, which was attended by over 1,000 persons. A resolution was carried *nem. con.*, reiterating the charge of the persecution of Crewe Liberal workmen.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF MR. THOMAS COOK.

Mr. Thomas Cook, sen., the founder of the well-known excursion firm of Cook and Son, lies in a precarious state at his residence, Thorneycroft, Stoneygate, Leicester. Mr. Cook has reached the ripe age of eighty-one, having been born in November, 1808. The immediate cause of the indisposition arises from an old wound which had its origin in an accident that befel him seventy-three years ago, in his native village of Melbourne, Derbyshire, by a fall on a piece of glass, which inflicted serious injury in his left leg.

A TRAGIC AND TOUCHING STORY.

A sadder story of real life has rarely been told than that of Elizabeth Ann Davis, late assistant mistress at the Sambourne National Schools, near Warminster, whose body has been found in the river, near Marsh Mills, in that neighbourhood. It is related only too clearly in her last letter to her friends, "Dear Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Carpenter, and Annie." She had been led into evil by a villain, and had found herself in a position wherein life meant for her only a bitter humiliation and certain shame. How deep was her despair is shown in the words—"What will you all think of me when you learn what a hypocrite I have been for the past few months? You can't detest me more thoroughly or truly than I do myself. Every act of kindness and thought of concern regarding my altered state of health which I have received from you all, have stung and pained me, and made me suffer far more keenly than the bitterest reproach could have done." Alone, apparently, or without anyone to whom she dared to look for counsel, the thought of death as the one escape had evidently haunted her young mind. She had gone away, she says, for the Christmas holidays with that terrible resolve; but the wish to see once more those who had been kind to her was too strong. There is an additional touch to the pathos of this mournful epistle in the circumstance that she craves forgiveness for not having died elsewhere, for "then," she says, "my shame would not have touched you so nearly." Surely this sad missive might have moved the Warminster jury to give the poor distracted schoolmistress the benefit of the doubt of her sanity, and spare her name from the lugubrious associations of their harsh verdict of *felo de se*.—*Daily News.*

MR. STANLEY STARTS FOR CAIRO.

The *Times* correspondent at Zanzibar, telegraphing yesterday, says Colonel Euan-Smith has returned to Zanzibar, after accompanying Mr. Stanley to Mombassa, one day ahead of the mail, with the object, as is rumoured, of thoroughly inspecting the works, and first selecting the probable site of the railway terminus. A public luncheon was given by the European residents to Mr. Stanley and his officers. On board the mail steamer, in the harbour of Mombassa, the British Consul-General, at the Sultan's request, presented Mr. Stanley with the Zanzibar Sultan's Order, and a brilliant star was received by express the same morning. The *Katoria*, with Mr. Stanley and five of his European staff, sailed this afternoon, first for Aden and Suez, the *Somali* and the *Turk* escorting them out of the harbour and cheering the ship on parting; all well. Dr. Parke has nearly recovered. It is rumoured that the telegraph ship has broken the cable in laying it between Zanzibar and Mombassa. No news has arrived from the French ship *Bouvet*, and the *Cossack* and *Turquoise* are still with her.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY'S STANLEY RECEPTION.

It is expected that some six thousand people will be accommodated in the Albert Hall for the public meeting at which the distinguished traveller has promised to appear, and a great feature of the evening will be the enormous map, one hundred feet by eighty, which the draftsman of the society is now busily engaged in preparing to illustrate Mr. Stanley's route. The small committee to whom has been entrusted the arrangements for the reception do not intend that the banquet shall be of a great public character. The medals to be presented to Stanley and Emin are of gold, and very large silver replicas will be presented to the white officers who have crossed the continent with Stanley or have shared his splendid exile with him, and the principal natives will have copper replicas given to them to commemorate their great journey.

The American colony in London has resolved to do substantial honour to Mr. H. M. Stanley on his arrival in London. The final arrangements are not yet made, but a magnificent electro shield is to be presented to him. On the shield, adorned with the arms of the United States, will be medallions representative of the chief incidents of his marvellous career as an explorer on the Dark Continent.

INDISPOSITION OF M. DE LESSEPS.

A Central News telegram from Paris says:—A rumour has been prevalent here that M. de Lesseps is dangerously ill. Inquiries however elicit the fact that, though the eminent engineer is indisposed, his illness is only slight and occasions no anxiety.

THE SPLIT IN THE SOCIETY OF FRENCH ARTISTS.

Several members of the committee of the Society of French Artists have determined to resign in order to necessitate fresh elections, which would give the majority of the artists an opportunity of pronouncing upon the question of Exhibition awards at present dividing the Society into two camps, owing to the view taken by some of the members that the awards should be disregarded by the society at their annual salons. In view of this split in the society, and the prospect of there being two salons should it continue, the idea gains ground that the official exhibition of pictures, the jury for their reception, and the system of official rewards should be suppressed altogether, and that painters should no more enjoy special protection from the Government than musicians or literary men.—*Reuter*.

RUN DOWN AND SUNK OFF THE MERSEY.

The vessel sunk off the Mersey last night by the collision with the White Star steamer *Britannic* was the brigantine *Czarowitz*, from Fowey, Cornwall, to Runcorn. The name of the captain, who was drowned, was John Pengelly. He leaves a widow and five or six children. The survivors state that the steamer struck the brigantine abaft the mainmast, and cut the afterpart clean away, the blow being a terrible one. When the impact occurred the captain was heard to say, "She's done for now," and was not seen afterwards. The crew took refuge in the topmasts, which remained above water. It was terribly cold, and even in the short time which elapsed before the rescue the men suffered severely. Boats were quickly launched from the *Britannic*, and the men were rescued and treated with great kindness on board the liner which landed them at Liverpool.

MISS COLENSO COMING TO PLEAD FOR THE ZULU CHIEFS.

A Reuter's telegram from Cape Town announces that Miss Colenso is about to leave for England in order to bring under public notice the case of the Zulu chiefs convicted of high treason at Etshowe last year, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

THE CHARGES AGAINST MR. MACDONALD GREEN.

To-day at the Mansion House, the charge of libel preferred by Mr. Macrae, the editor of the *Financial Times*, against Mr Macdonald Green was dismissed, the prosecutor stating that he desired to offer no evidence in support of the charge.

At the Mansion House to day, Mr. Macdonald Green and Mr. Bradley also appeared upon adjourned summonses charging them with having libelled Mr. May Leer, but the Alderman declined to hear the case as a civil action was pending, and adjourned the cases for six months.

ANOTHER DR. BARNARDO CASE.

At the Thames police court this morning, a man complained to Mr. Lushington that he had a daughter in Dr. Barnardo's Home, and was unable to see her, although he had made an application to do so. In answer to the magistrate, the applicant said he had been separated from his wife, on a magistrate's order, for committing an assault, and his wife was ordered to have the custody of the children. Mr. Lushington observed, under these circumstances, he did not see what applicant had to do with the child. The man replied that he only wanted to see her. Mr. Lushington said he had no power in the matter, and applicant then withdrew.

THE GRAND TURK AND THE "DAILY NEWS."

The Turkish Ambassador in London states that there is no foundation whatever for the report, published by a London morning paper, to the effect that he had demanded from the Marquis of Salisbury the suppression of certain English newspapers and, in particular, of the *Daily News*. No instructions to that effect have been issued by the Turkish Government to its representative. Rustem Pasha has made no such request: and there is, therefore, not one word of truth in the statement that Lord Salisbury gave any such reply as is imputed to him.

THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE PETERS EXPEDITION.

A gentleman at Aden, writing under date December 18, writes home to his friends:—"Lieutenant Rust, the only survivor of the Peters expedition, is now here in Aden. I had a talk with him and he said that he had had frightful sufferings. On arriving at Lamu he had no longer any shoe leather on his feet, and his clothes were in tatters, he himself being still very ill with fever. For five days he had been unconscious, and his people, leaving him for dead, continued their march, only one faithful servant remaining with him. On coming to himself again he was told by one of his men who had previously left him, and now rejoined him) that Dr. Peters had been murdered about a day's journey distant. The man swore he had seen Peters himself lying with one of his arms struck off and Tiedemann with three spears sticking in his breast." This would seem to put the death of Dr. Peters beyond doubt.

MR. CHARLES WARNER'S ANTIPODEAN TOUR.

A cheery letter comes from Charles Warner from Christchurch, New Zealand, where he is touring with his daughter, Miss Grace Warner, and his own company, in the legitimate drama. Mr. Warner has received an offer from Mr. Augustus Harris to return home and reappear at Drury-lane in the October drama of 1890; but at present his movements are undecided, as he contemplates a third return visit to Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, &c., and it is not unlikely that before he returns to England Mr. Warner may accept an offer for an American tour, starting in New York "next fall."

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES'S LATEST.

A considerable sensation is likely to be caused in the dramatic world (the London correspondent of the *Scotsman* declares) by a forthcoming entertainment at the Empire Theatre. Mr. George Edwardes has, it is said, prevailed upon one of our leading actresses, a lady in the front rank of her profession, to appear at the Empire in a series of dramatic sketches like those concerning which there has recently been so much controversy. These will be given with accessories of dress and scenery on a lavish scale, and will, in fact, be dramas in miniature, and not recitations in the ordinary sense of the word.

THE NEW RIFLE.

The first order received at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield for the new rifle is now almost complete, and a second order for twenty or twenty-five thousand weapons has been received. This second order will be completed by the month of April.

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN LONDON.

ANOTHER DEATH.

The influenza epidemic is making progress in the London Central Telegraph Station, and considerable inconvenience has been caused by the number of absentees. Up to the present about two hundred cases have come under the notice of the medical officer, and the majority of the patients are unable to attend to business.

The death was announced yesterday of another compositor, named Bacon, from influenza and pneumonia. It is a curious coincidence that the three men dead worked in a City printing office within a step of each other.

In the East-end a large number of constables have had to go on the sick list owing to suffering from the influenza epidemic. At the Limehouse station twenty-four constables are laid up with this complaint, and fourteen officers at the Arbour-square police station, while the divisional surgeons are attending a large number of those stationed at Leman-street.

The dreaded La Grippe has also attacked no less than three of Mr. Abbey's operatic troupe. Signor Tamagno was prevented from appearing at Chicago on Christmas-eve, and was still too ill to appear in "Otello" on New Year's eve. Mdme. Nordica's case seems even more serious, and her illness is stated to be so severe that her return to England is generally expected. Mdme. Valda is also on the sick list. Up to the present, however, both Mdme. Patti and Mdme. Albani have escaped. Herr Richter also lies ill with the influenza at Vienna.

It seems inevitable (says the *Lancet*) that London and other centres of population should suffer. Although the disease is really more a source of annoyance than productive of actual danger, it should not be treated lightly.

Apropos of the epidemic, the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* has just heard a rather curious story, for the facts of which he is able to vouch. A day or two ago a doctor was called in to attend two patients in the neighbourhood of Earl's Court. The ladies—sisters—were found to be suffering from an attack of genuine Russian influenza of a mild nature. In the course of his inquiries the medical man jokingly remarked that he hoped his patients had not been corresponding with friends in Russia. His astonishment was great on hearing that only two days previously one of the sisters had received from St. Petersburg a present in the shape of a shawl. There appears to be little doubt as to the responsibility of this seasonable gift for an attack of illness which at first could not be accounted for.

It is the suddenness of the attacks which makes the complaint specially alarming in London, as it has done on the Continent. On New Year's Eve, for instance, a party of friends were occupying a box at the theatre and were in the highest spirits. During the performance one of the gentlemen began to cough violently, and before he could be got home in a cab he was in an almost prostrate condition from "the grip." On the same night a young West-end doctor, who had been asking his friends to acquaint him of any genuine case, was sitting up to see in the New Year: at half-past ten he was jovial; by midnight he was unmistakably down with the complaint. A gentleman whose wife has not yet recovered tells me that equal suddenness marked her case. One hour she appeared all right; the next she was seized with violent pains in the head and limbs and all the customary symptoms. It is this suddenness which makes folks nervous.

The influenza still claims many victims in Berlin. The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden remain still confined to the Royal Palace. The Countess de Launay, wife of the Italian Ambassador, has been seriously ill, but is reported to be somewhat better. The Queen of Saxony was unable to hold her Levee on New Year's Day, and the Court banquet at Dresden was not given. Fully one-third of those who usually attend the King of Saxony's Levee at Dresden were unable to be present. The daily mortality in Paris shows a slight decrease, 334 deaths being registered on Wednesday, against 389 on Tuesday. At Angers the Bishop has dismissed the students of the seminary to their homes, and the mayor has given orders to postpone the reopening of all the schools in the town. Count Taaffe is suffering from a slight attack of influenza, and is confined to his bed. This is the Premier's second attack. The vessels of the United States ironclad squadron, which arrived at Tangiers on Wednesday from Lisbon, were not allowed to communicate with the shore, as they had forty-eight cases of influenza on board.

The Munich municipal authorities, acting on medical advice, have ordered the closing of all the national schools until the 13th inst., owing to the prevalence of influenza.—*Reuter*.

Ten per cent. of the members of the New York police force are suffering from influenza. If this sort of thing goes on, special arrangements will have to be made for the preservation of public order. At Clinton State Prison, in New York State, 400 prisoners are down with the malady.

MORE ELECTRIC LIGHT ACCIDENTS IN AMERICA.

AN EDISON SUPPLY STATION BURNED DOWN.

On Wednesday evening, in St. Louis, an electric light wire fell to the ground near a street corner. A few moments later (writes the *Daily News* correspondent) a Mr. and Mrs. Smith and a little dog passed the corner. The dog touched the wire and was killed in a moment. Mrs. Smith ran to the dog, and not seeing the wire, stepped on it. She was thrown some distance, and fell unconscious. Her husband sprang to pick her up, and received a severe shock, but was not rendered insensible. A crowd collected, and a man coming in contact with the wire was knocked insensible. A fireman rushed to his rescue, and received a very severe shock. The first victim was so badly hurt that he was sent to the City Hospital. A horse was killed by stepping on a fallen wire in another part of the city, and several other minor accidents occurred.

In New York the down-town station of the Edison Electric Lighting Company caught fire yesterday, and was completely destroyed, entailing a loss of £20,000 upon the company. The station occupied two four story buildings, and supplied electricity to 18,000 incandescent lamps. The fire may have been caused by sparks from a dynamo.

THE COLLIERY STRIKES IN BELGIUM.

Affairs in the Seraing colliery district to-day wear an improved aspect. The number of miners on strike has decreased, and the pits on the left bank of the Meuse are in full work.—*Reuter*.

"MODERN INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE."

Among a large collection of old curiosities left by the late Herr Leopold Ettel, of Innsbruck, there was found a large cupboard partitioned into lockers, filled with instruments of torture of different countries and periods. The topmost locker was inscribed, "Modern instruments of torture of the nineteenth century;" and on being opened was found to contain rate papers, dunning letters, and summonses.

THE LATE CHIEF CONSTABLE WILLIAMSON.

The Earl of Rosebery and Admiral Mayne, C.B., M.P., have joined the committee formed by Mr. Howard Vincent, M.P., for raising a fund in recognition of the forty years' service of the late Chief Constable Williamson. The Admiral does so as the representative of his father, the late Sir Richard Mayne, who, he says, always regarded Mr. Williamson as one of the very best of his officers. Messrs. Cox and Co. have not, we regret to hear, received so many subscriptions up to the present time as might have been expected.

THE GAS STRIKE.—MR. LIVESEY TO HIS CUSTOMERS.

The Secretary of the South Metropolitan Gas Company has issued a circular to its customers thanking them for their sympathy and their assistance in economising the gas. Yesterday the Strike Committee sent out a notice threatening to strike off strike pay any men seen going into the works without permission.

Two vessels in the Thames, with coal from the North of England for the South Metropolitan Gas Company, were, it is stated, boarded by pickets from the stokers on strike, whose object was to induce the sailors to refuse to unload the cargo in order to stop the supply of fuel to the company. Only two of the sailors appear to have been persuaded.

A movement has been started for the purpose of inviting Mr. Gladstone to address a mass meeting of Liberals in South London.

Intelligence received in St. Petersburg from Transcaspian territory gives a denial to the reports of a revolution in Afghanistan.—*Reuter*.

In consequence of the severe weather the Haydock Park Steeplechase Meeting, fixed for to-day and to-morrow, has been postponed until January 10 and 11.

Considerable progress is being made with the new gun-cotton factory in connection with the Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey, and the necessary machinery is being laid down.

Mr. Sykes, a Birmingham Quaker, yesterday suffered distraint rather than pay a fine inflicted upon him by a coroner, because he insisted on wearing his hat in court.

At the Thames Police-court to-day Samuel Allibon, a man of fifty-two, was charged with exposing his daughter, aged fourteen, and his son, aged twelve, whereby their health might have been endangered. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, watched the case. Both children had been laid up in the infirmary ever since the prisoners arrest, and the girl still remained very ill. The girl was so weak that she had to be carried on the ambulance. Mr. Lushington sentenced Allibon to one month's hard labour.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Half-past Three.

MARKETS STILL VERY QUIET.—SMALL BUSINESS.—NO FEATURE.—FURTHER RECOVERY IN BRAZILS.

The Money Market remains in a very unsettled condition. Large repayments fall due at the Bank of England to-day, and there is therefore a strong demand for money, the charge for loans until to-morrow ranging from 4 to 5 per cent. The discount market is quiet so far as the amount of business passing is concerned, and the nominal quotation for short and three months' bank bills is 4½ to 4¾ per cent., though, as a matter of fact, transactions have been effected at less even than 4½ per cent. A satisfactory feature is the recovery in the New York Exchange on London and the favourable tendency of the Paris Exchange, though both will have to improve appreciably before gold can be expected here in any quantity.

The Stock Markets remain very quiet and uninteresting. The outlook of the monetary position is too uncertain to allow of any extended commitments. Some operators for a time were frightened by the low proportion of reserve to liabilities shown in the Bank return, but on explanations being given they took very little further notice beyond abstaining from dealing. Consols, curiously enough, continue firm, and at one time showed a further recovery, while in the Home Railway market there is a general though slight improvement. In the Foreign department Brazilian issues are again firm, and not only maintain yesterday's advance but show a further rise of 1 to 2, while a demand has been experienced for Peruvian Five and Six per Cents. American Railroads have given way in response to lower New York quotations, the market on the other side being adversely affected by the advance in the value of money. The earnings of the Denver and Rio Grande for the fourth week of December show an increase of 33,750 dols., for the month an increase of 79,250 dols., and for the year an increase of 381,435 dols.; Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, for the month of November, a net increase of 128,141 dols.; and Louisville and Nashville, for the same period, a net increase of 150,205 dols. Trunks are firm, and Mexican Railway issues are neglected. Copper Mining shares are distinctly better, and South African descriptions are supported.

According to the usual monthly statement of the Caisse of the Public Debt of Egypt, the amount encashed since the payment of the last coupon for the service of the Unified Debt was £E.293,000, and for the Privileged Debt £E.87,000. The total amounts encashed since the payment of the last coupons are £E.969,000 and £E.195,000 respectively.

Messrs. Bolitho, Foster, Coode, and Co. (Limited) have made arrangements with Messrs. Willyams, Willyams and Co. to take over the Miners' Bank in Cornwall as on and from the 1st inst., and have made arrangements with Messrs. Williams and Grylls for an amalgamation with their West Cornwall Bank as on and from the same date, subject to the passing of certain necessary resolutions by the company at a meeting which is to be at once convened.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Spot firm, fair business doing. Sales 10,000 tures firm, at one and half to two points advance.

LONDON METALS.—*Opening*: Copper, firm; G.M. brands, 50¾ to 51⅛ cash; three months, 51⅛ to 51¾. Tin, steady; fine foreign, 97½ to 98 cash; three months, 97¾ to 98½. Australian, 97⅞ to 98⅛. English pig lead, 14½ to 14⅝; foreign soft, 14⅛ to 14¼; spelter, 24¼ to 24⅜. Pig iron, moderate sales. Scotch, 65 to 67½ one month; 65 to 66 cash in one week. Middlesbrough, 65 cash.

GLASGOW PIG IRON.—The market opened with business at 64s. 4d. to 65s. 11d. cash, and at 65s. 3d. to 66s. 4d. one month; closing buyers 65s. 5d. cash, 65s. 11d. one month; sellers, halfpenny to a penny more. Market easier, large business.

EASTERN EXCHANGES.—From Bombay at 1s. 4 31-32d.; from Calcutta at 1s. 5d., from Hong Kong at 3s. 2d., and from Shanghai at 4s. 5d.

PARIS BOURSE.—The following are quoted at the Paris Bourse this day at 12.45 P.M.:—Rentes, Money, 87f. 92½c.; Ditto Account, 87f. 90c.; New Three per Cents., 92f. 10c.; Four and a Half per Cents., 105f. 35c.; Italian, 95f. 55c.; Lombards, 303f. 75c.; Suez Canal, 2,310f.; Ottoman Bank, 534f. 37c.; Turkish New, 17f. 72c.; Rio Tinto, 418f. 75c.; Spanish Four per Cents., 73f. 54c.; Egyptian Unified, 469f. 06c.; Hungarian, 88f. 25c.; Exchange (short), 25f. 21c.; Ditto (cheques), 25f. 23¾f.; Ditto (long), 25f. 32½c. State of markets, firm.

TRAFFICS.—Brighton Railway (yesterday) £158 *increase*; Suez Canal (yesterday) amounted to 190,000 francs, Norfolk and Western (week) 14,000 dols. *increase*.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Higher*: Brighton Deferred ⅜, North Eastern ⅛, Great Western, Sheffield Deferred, Midland, North British Deferred and Preferred, and South Eastern Deferred ⅛ each. *Receded*: Chatham Ordinary ⅛, and Caledonian ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Risen*: Brazilian Scrip (partly paid) 1, ditto (fully paid) 2, Peruvian 1870 ⅜, the 1872 ¼, and Greek 1881 ⅛, Italian ⅛, Spanish 1-16, and Egyptian Unified 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Higher*: Wabash Preference and Mortgage ⅛ each, Denver Preference 2, the Ordinary ⅜, Atlantic Firsts ⅛, and Ontario shares ⅛, Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¼, Union Pacific Shares ⅛, *Receded*: Lake Shore ¼, Louisville and Nashville ¼, Milwaukee and St. Paul ⅛, and Pennsylvania shares ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher*: Grand Trunk First Preference ¼, the Second Preference ⅛, the Third Preference and Guaranteed ⅛, and the Ordinary 1-16, Nitrate shares ½, and Canadian Pacific shares ⅛. *Decreased*: Mexican Ordinary ⅛.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved*: Gas Light and Coke "A" 1, Mason and Barry ¼, Rio Tinto 3-16, De Beers 7-16, S. A. Exploration ⅛, Primitiva Nitrate ½, and Cape Copper 1-16. *Receded*: Ottoman Bank 1-16.

The following are this day's 3.30 prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols (2¾) money	97⅛	¼
Do. acct.	97 3/16	5/16
Do. 1905	99¼	¾
2½ per Cent.	94⅛	5
Local Loan Stock	102½	3
India 3½ per Cent.	107¼	¾
Do. 4½ p.c. Ru	71¾	2
Egyptian Guar.	101¼	2¼
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	112⅛	13
Do. 3 p.c. Scrip	102	½ xd
Birmingham Crp. St.	110	11
Liverpool	112	½
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argent. 4½ p.c. 1888	83¼	¾
Do. 3½ p.c. Scrip	62⅛	3 xd
Do Treasury	92	3
Austrian Gold	92	4
Do. Silver	72	4 xd
Braz. Scrip iss. at 90	76½	7
Do. part paid	9⅛	8½ dis
B. Ayres 6 p.c.	93⅛	9½
Do. Cedulas I.	42½	3
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1886	99	101 xd
Costa Rica A	91	3 xd
Do. B	88	90 xd
Egypt. State Dom	101¼	2¼
Do. Unified	92¼	3
Do. Preference	103	¼
Do. Daira Sanieh	82⅞	3⅛
French 3 p.c. Rnts	86⅛	7 xd
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts	104½	5
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	91	¼ xd
Hung. Gold Rentes	85¼	⅛ xd
Italian	92⅛	¼ xd
Mexican 6 per c 1888	93⅛	4 xd
Peruvian 5 p.c.	16	⅛
Do. 6 p.c.	18¼	⅛
Portuguese	63¾	4¼ xd
Russian 4 p. c. 1889	92⅛	3 xd
Spanish 4 p. c.	72⅜	½ xd
Turkish 1858	101	3
Series A	37¼	¾
Series B	22⅛	⅜
Series D	17 7/16	9/16
4½ p.c. 1871	91¼	5¼
5 p.c. Defence	101	½
6 p.c. Priority	95	7
Uruguay Unified	71¾	2¼ xd
Virginia Funded	45	6
U.S. 5½ p.c.	106½	7⅛
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Caledonian	123	¼
Great Eastern	83⅛	4⅛
Great Northern	125	6
Ditto A	110½	11⅛
Great Western	170⅛	⅜
Hull and Barnsley	37	½
Lanc. and York	125	6
Brighton (Ordinary)	160	2
Brighton A	162	¼
Chatham (Ordinary)	25⅛	⅜

Chat. Preference	109⅛	10
North Western	180⅛	¾
South Western	167⅛	8½
Manchester & Shef.	91	3
Do. A	48⅛	¾
Met. Consolidated	85¼	4¼
Do. District	31¾	2¼
Midland	146⅞	7⅛
North British Pref	77¾	8¼
Do. Def.	64⅛	¼
North Eastern	174⅝	⅞
North Stafford	115	15
South Eastern	135	5
Do. Deferred	105¾	6
Taff Vale, 1889	85	9
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific	77⅞	8¼
Cen. Pacific Shares	34⅛	5
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl	71⅛	¼
Denver & R. Grande	17⅛	⅜
Do. Pref.	51¾	2¼
Illinois Shares	121⅛	2
Lake Shore	107½	8 xd
Ohio & Mississippi	22¼	3¼
Louis. and Nash.	83⅜	⅞
Mex. Cen. New Bds.	72¼	¾ xd
Miss. Kan. & Texas	11⅛	12
N.Y. Cen. Shares	111	½
New York Ontario	20	¼
Erie Shares	27¼	½
Do. Sec. Mort.	104	½
Norfolk & West. Pre	61⅞	2⅛
N.Y.P. & O. 1st M.	35	½ xd
North Pacific Pref	76⅛	7⅛
Pennsylvania Sh.	54⅛	¾
Phil & Read Sh.	19⅞	20⅛
Union Pacific Sh.	69⅛	¾
Wabash Preference	32¼	¾
Do. Gen. Mort.	63¼	4¼
Grand Trunk Ord	10⅞	11
Do. First Pref.	73¾	4
Do. Second Pref	51⅛	¼
Do. Third Pref	28¼	9
Do. Guaranteed	76⅛	½
Mexican Ordinary	44⅛	½
Do. First Pref	118¼	19¼
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	77¼	8¼
Lombardo-Venet	12⅛	¼
Varna 3 per cent.	7¼	8
Nitrate Railway	22⅛	⅜
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	15⅛	15
City Bank	22⅛	3⅛
Consolidated Bank	8⅛	9
Imperial Ottoman	11 5/16	5/16
London and County	91	2
Union of London	42⅛	3½
London and West	74⅛	3⅛
London Joint Stock	41½	2½
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	55⅛	6⅛
Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	68	9

MINES.		
Indian Consolidated	3⅞	4⅛
Mysore shares	5⅛	⅛
Ooregums	2 3/16	5/16
Cape Copper	5⅛	⅛ xd
Namaqua	2⅛	⅜ xd
Mason and Barry	7 3/16	5/16
Rio Tinto	16⅝	¾
Montana £1 shares	1 3/16	5/16 xd
De Beers new shares	25	¼ xd
S. African Explor.	25	½ xd
TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.		
Anglo-American	52	3
Do. Pref.	87⅛	8½
Brazilian Submarine	12¼	¼
Direct Unit. States	10⅛	⅛
Eastern	14	¼
Ditto Extension	13⅛	14
National Telephone	6⅛	⅜
Globe Teleg. Trust	8⅛	⅜
TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
London Gen. Om.	180	90
London Street	11	12
London Tramway	14	15
North Metropolitan	17⅛	18
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterworks	250	5
East London	211	16
Grand Junction	125	30
Kent	275	81
Lambeth	251	6 xd
New River, New	354	9
S'thwrk & Vauxhall	157	72
W. Middlesex	250	4
GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.		
Gaslight & Coke A	216	9
Imp. Continental	213	18
South Metro. A.	300	5
Do. B.	230	5
Do. C.	240	50
London Electric	3⅞	4⅛
Metropolitan	4⅛	5⅛
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp	8	¼
Guinness and Co.	340	5
Hotchkiss	6⅛	⅞
Bryant and May	13⅛	14⅛
Spratt's Patent	8⅛	⅛
Liverpool Nitrate	17	19
Primitiva Nitrate	22⅛	3
Salt Union Shares	10¼	⅛
P and O. Steam	—	—
Royal Mail Steam	70	3
Nat. Discount Co.	12¼	¾
Hudson's Bay	19⅞	20⅛
Suez Canal	90	½ xd
E. and W. Ind. Dock	18	21
London and St. K.	55	7

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bell's Asbestos	17¼	⅛
San Jorge	6¼	7¼
Tarapaca Water	11¼	¼
City and Suburban	12¼	⅛
Jumper's Gold	11⅛	⅜
Jubilee	6¼	¾
Salisbury	15	¼
Ruby	1⅛	⅜ pm
Lisbon Berlyn	11/	12/
Oceana Land	15⅛	⅜
Sutherland Reef	4	⅛
Transvaal Land	1¼	⅜ pm
G. F. of S. Africa	5⅛	6⅛
Exploring Co.	15½	¾
Rothschild's Exploration	4¼	⅜ pm
Southern Land	⅜	⅜ pm

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

The papers are indulging in the most absurd guesses as to Dr. Lightfoot's successor. Every conceivable name has been mentioned by one person or another, and the latest canard is that the Bishop of Lincoln will be offered the see, a notion which surely any one can see is in his own interest as well as for other reasons impossible, pending his trial. Naming clergymen prematurely for bishoprics has often lost them a mitre—as notably Archbishop Trench, who was destined for the see of Gloucester had not the *Times* announced his appointment before the Queen's pleasure had been taken—and possible prelates may well say "Save me from my friends." Curiously enough, in all the speculations that are current a possible translation of a young bishop which might leave at Canon Liddon's disposal the only diocese he is believed to care for has not been mentioned.

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One's memory is carried back to the scorching days of the Shah's visit last July by the announcement this morning that the Queen has conferred a baronetcy upon Sir Albert Sassoon. Those who were fortunate enough to be invited guests at the Empire Theatre during the brief but glorious period last summer when it was known as the "Sassooneries," will feel that Sir Albert's hospitable instincts have met with a fittingly great reward.

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The now deceased founder of the house was Mr. David Sassoon, of Bagdad, where he married a Miss Joseph. Emigrating to Bombay, Mr. Sassoon, by his wealth and generosity, became head of the Jewish section there, and had meanwhile established himself as banker and merchant. Most of his sons were educated in Europe.

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On the death of Mr. David Sassoon, Sir Albert came to London, where he received the freedom of the City in 1873, having been knighted by patent the previous year. Sir Albert is seventy-three years old, is the head of the Eastern Jews, and married a Miss Moses in 1838. His wife, however, for reasons of climate, has to live in the palace at Bombay, about which one has heard such tales of splendour. His son Edward married a daughter of Baron Gustave Rothschild.

***

It is interesting to note that the founder of the Atkinson Morley Convalescent Hospital at Wimbledon, on the plan of which the anonymous donor of the latest present of £100,000 to the British public desires a hospital to be established, was the former proprietor of Morley's Hotel in the Strand. It appears that when the authorities of St. George's Hospital took the word "convalescent" on its broadest basis, some unpleasantness arose with Mr. Atkinson Morley's heirs; a lawsuit was the consequence, but the court decided the case in favour of the convalescent hospital. Mr. A. Morley, before he became an hotel-keeper, was a medical student, a fact which perhaps accounts for his bequeathing legacies to so many institutions connected with hospitals, or with institutions for the benefit of the sick poor.

***

Not long after it was opened the Convalescent Hospital, which is situated in one of the most charming parts of Wimbledon, fell into rather a low financial state, but I believe Mr. R. T. Poole Collyns, who for over twelve years was medical superintendent of the place, brought it back to a very flourishing condition by a wise and economical administration of the funds.

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Wimbledonians themselves know little or nothing about the Convalescent Hospital, which has no other connection with the aristocratic suburb than that it pays its rates and taxes to the local authorities. A lady who visits regularly among the patients told me yesterday that it is not at all easy to get admission into the wards, and that very strict discipline is kept with regard to the admittance of any outsider, no one being admitted without a special permission from headquarters.

***

The *Daily Telegraph* should feel proud this morning, as two of its contemporaries—the *Daily News*, to wit, and the *Daily Chronicle*—have paid it the flattery of imitating its "London Day by Day" columns. The *Daily News* publishes two almost exactly similar columns, in similar type, under the heading "This Morning's News;" while the *Daily Chronicle* dispenses with a heading, but publishes a column and a half of similarly "leaded" paragraphs.

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The uninitiated reader will doubtless welcome the innovation in the belief that he is getting a new kind of "special" information. To the practical journalist the way in which the lead of the *Daily Telegraph* has been followed is chiefly interesting as showing a revolution in what used to be considered the prime law of good news editing. As many cross-headed or side-headed paragraphs as possible used to be the news editor's maxim. Now it would seem as if the maxim were to be precisely reversed. It is a case of Large Print *versus* Cross-Heads.

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If only "printer's readers" were as lynx-eyed as the ordinary reader, how much happier the editor's lot might be! If I have had one letter calling attention to the very obvious misprint of *pessimus* for *perennius* in a recent citation of Horace's hackneyed line, I must have had twenty. And so sarcastic, some of them; so friendly, others! The solicitude of so many of my readers to convey to me the abstruse information as to what *pessimus* means, and that it is not the same as *perennius*, and that it would be very bad grammar as well as worse sense, has touched me deeply.

***

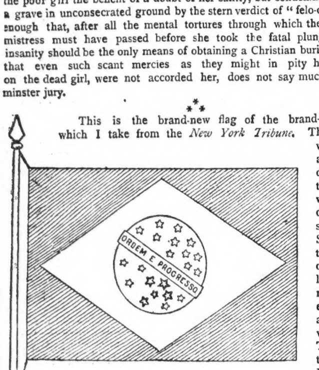
What a world of sadness and despair there is in the story told in this morning's papers of Elizabeth Ann Davis, the young assistant mistress at the Sambourne National Schools, near Warminster, who drowned herself after she had been deceived and ruined. "Every act of kindness and thought of concern regarding my altered state of health which I have received from you all, have stung and pained me, and made me suffer far more keenly than the bitterest reproach could have done," she wrote to her friends after she left them for the Christmas holidays, with a haunting sense that, in order to atone for her sin, she must go "anywhere, anywhere out of the world."

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It is, indeed, the pitiful story of "The Bridge of Sighs" told over again, verse by verse, and the ending of the present story is sadder than that which Hood has sung, for the Warminster jury did not find that justice could be tempered with mercy in so far as even to give the poor girl the benefit of a doubt of her sanity, but condemned her body to a grave in unconsecrated ground by the stern verdict of "felo-de-se." It is bad enough that, after all the mental tortures through which the young schoolmistress must have passed before she took the fatal plunge, a verdict of insanity should be the only means of obtaining a Christian burial for her; but that even such scant mercies as they might in pity have conferred on the dead girl, were not accorded her, does not say much for the Warminster jury.

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This is the brand-new flag of the brand-new Republic, which I take from the *New York Tribune*. The old shield, wreath, crown and double circle are omitted; twenty-one white stars, including the constellation of the Southern Cross, take the place of the old globe lines, and the motto "Ordem e Progresso" appears on the white band. The colours in the flag of the Republic are the same as those of the Imperial ensign, except that the globe is blue instead of green. The twenty-one stars in the new flag represent the municipality of Rio de Janeiro and various States.



CARLYLE.—BY A KIRKCALDY FRIEND.

SOME INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

A writer in the *British Weekly* contributes some notes upon the career of the late Provost Swan, of Kirkcaldy, whose father was chiefly instrumental in getting Carlyle to come as teacher to the "lang toon." In the course of the story there are several interesting references to Carlyle's life there and in London. It seems that while at Kirkcaldy Carlyle regularly dined on Sundays with the Swan family. The school in which Carlyle taught formed part subsequently of a flax-warehouse belonging to the Provost. It is now included in the buildings of a Working Lads Institute. Across the narrow wynd in which it stands is the school in which Edward Irving was teaching at the same time; and less than a stone's-throw away is the house in which Adam Smith wrote the "Wealth of Nations." The Provost would often in his later years, point to any two young teachers who might chance to be walking in the street, and remark how strange it was that two "laddies" of their age, who had walked together in the same place half a century before, should have had before them such careers as Irving and Carlyle.

CARLYLE "WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL IN THESE MOMENTS."

On being sent to attend classes at the University, Mr. Swan (the younger) was put under the tutorial charge of Carlyle, who was by that time resident in Edinburgh. Soon, of course, they drifted apart; and it was only at rare intervals that they met afterwards. When in London, Mr. Swan generally called at Cheyne-row. I have witnessed more than one of these interviews, and it was evident that they met on equal terms of friendship and old acquaintance. The conversation began with references to old friends, whose welfare was inquired after or their loss deplored. Carlyle was very beautiful in these moments. The rugged face would melt in tender regret, and he would pour out, in the most exquisite language, a kind of tuneful dirge over some deceased acquaintance. By degrees he drifted into one of his usual tirades on "niggers" or some other of his stock subjects, interspersing it now and then with great explosions of self mocking laughter. Mr. Swan calling at Chelsea, after a visit to Germany, told Carlyle he had been in Eisenach, and seen Luther's room in the Wartburg. "Ay" said Carlyle, "were you there? When I was standing in that room I felt that it was the holiest spot I had ever seen in this world, and I think so still."

JOURNALISM "A MOST BLACKGUARDLY OCCUPATION."

In 1874 Carlyle paid Mr. Swan a visit, and stayed for a fortnight or more at St. Brycedale. Of course his ways were peculiar, and Fife was soon ringing with legends about him more or less apocryphal. As was to be expected, there was an intense desire to see the great man of letters on the part of all in the neighbourhood who had any literary pretensions. Carlyle would sometimes deny himself altogether, and quit the company without any apology. A Fife editor, on coming in, was greeted with "Well, who are you?" The visitor told his profession. "A most blackguardly occupation," replied Carlyle, and launched forth on the sins of journalism. But he came round by degrees, and the editor enjoyed a delightful hour.

THE SAGE ON BILDAD.

During Carlyle's visit the routine of the St. Brycedale household went on as usual, with prayers morning and evening. He did not generally attend, but one Sunday evening he not only stayed but offered to read the Scriptures. Opening the family Bible at the beginning of Job, he read on, chapter after chapter, interjecting brief comments as he went along; such as (on "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest"), "Aye, is that there? I had forgotten where it was"; (in the middle of a chapter), "I do not think Bildad is making much of it." After he had read several chapters, his niece whispered that the servants might be wearying, when he shut the book with some abruptness and went out of the room.

CONCERNING MRS. CARLYLE.

Mr. Swan was in no degree removed from loyalty to his friend by the publication of Mrs. Carlyle's Letters, maintaining that the obscuration of his greatness could only be temporary. He did not, indeed, render to Mrs. Carlyle the same admiration as she received from cleverer men; he even thought that it might have been better if Carlyle had had a wife who would have cared less for his "fame," but drawn out the more tender and reverent elements of his nature. He put no faith in the reports given about Carlyle's religious opinions by men like Froude and Tyndall (says our contemporary), for he believed that there was a large subjective element in them; and he would shrewdly point out that, even according to these reporters, the anti-Christian statements to which they committed him nearly always came from themselves, he being only alleged to have assented to them. He was particularly fond of the "Cromwell," and would often read aloud the great scene of the hero's death; and he used to say that the man who wrote that must have had the root of the matter in him. He may, perhaps, have been nearly the only man who could speak to Carlyle during his later years from the believing standpoint.

ARRANGING FOR STANLEY'S LECTURES.

In a far corner of Clifford's Inn (spot sacred to lawyers) is a dingy office occupied by one Mr. G. W. Appleton, the chief of a Lecture and Entertainment Bureau. Mr. Appleton is an American, who has introduced the American lecturing system into this country. The extent and variety of his dealings are clearly enough indicated by the circulars, programmes, and playbills which litter his tables, and by the profusion of theatrical and platform portraits which cover his walls. Mr. Archibald Forbes, Sir Robert Ball, Max O'Rell, Mrs. Scott Siddons, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Oscar Wilde, and Mr. Charles Dickens are among his many clients. But, in addition to these, Mr. Appleton "exploits" Mr. H. M. Stanley.

Mr. Appleton expects the explorer back some time in March. Whether he will at once proceed to lecture or not depends upon one or two things which cannot be pre-arranged. He is, of course, bound to finish his book for Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., and he may very naturally want a rest. Engagements have been booked for him all over the country; in fact, there is scarcely a single important town or centre in the United Kingdom that is not down to hear Stanley. It is stated that the most tempting offer he has yet received is one of £3,000 to speak about half a column of matter into a phonograph. The traveller's first public lecture will be given at St. James's Hall, and the second at the Polytechnic in Regent-street. The dates of these have, of course, not yet been fixed.

THE REPORTED ATROCITIES IN SIBERIA.

A Russian version of these atrocities has now appeared. According to a reliable despatch from St. Petersburg, the recently reported slaughter of political exiles at Irkutsk was due to the discovery of a Nihilist conspiracy. The authorities ascertained in some way that the Nihilists, who formed the majority of the exiles, had actually set up a secret printing press, and further inquiries left no doubt that this had been done with the knowledge of the guards, who were mostly Siberian Cossacks. Prompt arrangements were made for crushing the "audacious conspiracy." Upon the day appointed an overwhelming force of loyal troops was ordered up to protect the officers charged with the duty of seizing and destroying the printing press. The Nihilists stoutly opposed the seizure, and they were actively supported in their mad determination by the Cossacks. A sanguinary conflict ensued. But the mutineers were finally overpowered, after thirty of their number had been either killed or seriously wounded. The survivors were arrested, and no doubt long ere this have been severely punished.

THE ROMANCE OF A PUBLIC PARK.

The wholesome fashion of wealthy people presenting public parks is spreading. A London lady has, writes the London correspondent of the *Sheffield Independent*, just made a munificent gift of this character, though circumstances have allotted the benefaction to an American town. The lady is Mrs. Schenley, widow of a captain in the British Army, and heroine of a somewhat romantic story. She was the daughter of an American colonel, who became possessor of considerable tracts of land upon which the now prosperous town of Pittsburg was built. Miss Mary Coghlan as she was named, went to school in New York. The school is kept by an English lady, to whom came on a visit a relative, Captain Edward Schenley. He fell in love with the young Pittsburg girl. She returned his affection, and the affair ended in elopement and marriage. The young couple settled in England, the irate father remaining at Pittsburg. Before his death he recognized the marriage, and left all his possessions to his daughter. These have grown with the growth of Pittsburg, till their value is estimated at little short of £4,000,000 sterling. Mrs. Schenley, now an old lady, lives in London, spending part of her time at her house in Cannes. Mrs. Schenley, turning her thoughts back to the place of her birth, has presented Pittsburg with 300 acres of valuable land, with the stipulation that it shall be turned into a public park, bearing her name.

A RIVAL TO MADAME TUSSAUD'S.

There is talk of the establishment of a rival to Mdme. Tussaud's, which shall be of a more sensational character than the great original. The promoters are understood to have fixed upon the Musée Grevin, one of the attractions of Paris, for their model, with such modifications and variations as they think may suit the English taste.

READERS LEAVING HOME TEMPORARILY can have the PALL MALL GAZETTE forwarded at the following rates:—Two weeks, 1s. 6d.; four weeks, 3s. SATURDAY'S SPECIAL EDITION posted in time for delivery in the COUNTRY on SUNDAY MORNING, forwarded for 6s. 6d. per annum. Address, The Publisher, *Pall Mall Gazette* Office, Northumberland-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE "MERRY ENGLAND" MISUNDERSTANDING.

A letter from Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Meynell, to be published in to-morrow's *Athenæum*, admits that Mr. Meynell has produced an "unequivocal, though apparently somewhat reluctant consent" to publish. What he does not think he could have agreed to if he had understood it was the republication in a periodical devoted to the interests of a particular religious body, as such a proceeding gives rise to unfounded inferences. He offers no objection to the remainder of the paper on "Ellen Middleton" being published, and says, "If I have troubled you in error, I much regret it."

FIFTEEN FEET HIGH WAVES IN ARGYLL-STREET.

Every one who has a taste for "a life on the ocean wave" will find the "regates mécaniques," which has been brought from the Paris Exhibition to Hengler's Cirque, in Argyll-street, a very fair substitute for the real article. The "Ocean Wave" reminds one somewhat of the old "roly-poly" of years ago and the "switchback" of more recent times. Six yachts, capable of seating 120 persons, each yacht being twenty feet in length, with a five feet beam, are embedded in the "ocean wave," and by the application of the ball and socket principle, are made to rise and fall and make progress, giving a motion very similar to that experienced in a rolling sea. The waves can be regulated to run from one to fifteen feet high. The centre of the machinery is made to simulate the deck of a "penny steamboat," and, with a mock captain on the bridge, sailors in costume, and the "painted ship upon a painted ocean," as Coleridge hath it, the imitation is sufficiently close to make *mal de mer* almost a possibility. This, however, is provided against by the regularity of the "waves." Any one who wants a new sensation should try the "Ocean Wave."

COLONEL NORTH'S ART COLLECTION AT OLDHAM.

To-day Colonel North's unique collection of art treasures will be opened, free of charge, at the Corporation Art Gallery, Oldham. The pictures, plate, &c., have already been on view there for four months. The collection of paintings is only of comparatively recent formation. The nucleus, comprising the Sciuti group and other examples of recent Italian art, was acquired from the Italian Exhibition in London. Other pictures were added from time to time, that by Mr. Goodall, R.A., "Misery and Mercy," being obtained from the Leeds Exhibition, and the painting by Giles, "Feeding Time," from the Liverpool Exhibition.

THE LAST OF AN OLD JOURNALIST.

Mr. Clarkson, who was buried yesterday afternoon at Norwood, was one of a rapidly narrowing circle of men who form a company of the oldest journalists on the London press. Mr. Clarkson (writes the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*) had been on the staff of the *Daily News* almost from the start of the paper. He was there under the editorship of Charles Dickens, and entered the gallery as a member of the staff of Dickens' *père*, who for a short time acted as manager of the Parliamentary corps. Dickens's father was by training and capacity about as well suited for this onerous and honourable post as Mr Micawber would have been; but it was something that "turned up" in conjunction with his illustrious son's prosperity, and Mr. John Dickens took it with an airy grace, which, however, did not, according to Clarkson's recollection, hide his inefficiency from the eyes of his young staff. During his long connection with an enterprising journal, including a series of from twenty five to thirty sessions of Parliament, Clarkson must have witnessed some historic episodes and come across some interesting people. Not the least fascinating of his personal connections was this by which he had been brought face to face with Mr. Micawber in the flesh, and had nightly observed him pursuing his strangely assorted business avocation.

A HITCH IN THE BIOGRAPHY OF SIR BARTLE FRERE.

Anglo-Indians will (says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*) learn with amazement that Sir William Hunter has declined to go on with the biography of Sir Bartle Frere. The explanation of the collapse lies in no unwillingness on Sir William Hunter's part to complete the undertaking, but in the attitude of the family in relation to the work. It is understood that Sir William Hunter has carried the "Life" to the end of the first volume, and the close of Sir Bartle Frere's career in Bombay prior to his appointment to the Governor-General's Council. It is there that his career becomes a subject of public controversy, and it is probably in connection with these points that the difference between Sir William Hunter and the family of Sir Bartle Frere arose.

SALE OF A HISTORIC ESTATE.

Messrs. Walton and Lee, London, have effected the sale of the Brooksbyhall estate to Mr. Joseph Grant Williams, of Pendrey Manor, Tring. The hall was the seat of the Villiers family, and the birthplace of George, the celebrated favourite of James I., and afterwards first Duke of Buckingham. The price has not been disclosed, but is believed to be about £75 an acre.

MUSICAL MEMS.

Mr. Edward Lloyd starts for America on March 15. He has arranged to visit Canada as well as the States, and will there take part in at least two concerts.

The complimentary concert given to Mr. Santley at Sydney realized in spite of bad weather the substantial sum of £500. Thanks to careful economy in the matter of expenditure (the other artists giving their services), the net proceeds amounted to £450, the whole of which was handed over to Mr. Santley.

From Chicago the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* learns that Mr. Abbey's opera season is going on very prosperously; Tamagno has become an immense favourite, and is almost as big a "draw" as Patti. Mdme. Nordica shared the great tenor's success in "Aida;" and last week Mdme. Albani was to sing with him in "Les Huguenots," this being the first time she has ever undertaken the rôle of Valentine. Verdi's "Otello" was to be ready for production some time this week, but whether Albani or Nordica was to be the Desdemona did not seem quite certain.

Sir Charles Hallé, accompanied by his wife, will enter upon his Australian labours—surely we may add, and triumphs—in May next.

A SPECULATIVE MANIA.

In the following estimate of the business outlook in the United States, it is worth noting what a Transatlantic onlooker has to say of our own position. The writer is Mr. Henry Clews:—Taken as a whole, the situation is very generally felt to be a hopeful one. The general trade of the country is in a more than ordinarily healthy condition. Whilst in Great Britain the revival of trade is attended with an outbreak of speculative mania which runs into all kinds of wild and inflated ventures, we have here a very prosperous state of business with no conspicuous overdoing in any direction. The "trust" craze is subsiding; the building of new railroads has almost ceased; the excitement over Southern development has settled into a careful investment movement in the hands of sober men of capital; and prices of both commodities and securities are ranging around a level that scarcely admits of any important reaction, but rather invites buying upon reasonable prospects of a rise.

AN AERATED WATER MACHINE.

Another machine for the manufacture of aerated waters has been brought under the notice of the public. The Eifel Aerator, as it is named, consists of a copper cylinder and an automatic pump, the action of which is governed by a store of carbonic acid gas contained in a portable tube under high pressure, and attached to the Aerator by pipe and valve. These tubes, containing sufficient pure compressed natural gas for some 200 dozen bottles, are filled at the springs of the extinct Eifel volcano in Rhenish Prussia, and are now being imported into England for manufacturing purposes in large quantities at a cost of a few shillings each. When one bottle has been filled and removed the machine is automatically in position to deliver a further charge on the insertion of a fresh bottle without any further manual labour, and continues so until the gas tube is exhausted. The machine is being brought out by the Eifel Automatic Aeration Company, 2, Princes Mansions, Victoria-street, S.W.

Mr. Daniel Adamson's condition yesterday showed no marked change.

General Ignatieff is reported to be dangerously ill.

Miss Sophie Larkin, the actress, was robbed of a valuable bracelet whilst entering a train at Charing-cross station last evening.

Mr. W. L. Bright, member for Stoke, who has been ill for the last fortnight, is now convalescent.

The Council of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching has decided to issue a monthly University Extension journal.

The trustees of the British Museum have given orders to prepare a Tudor Exhibition to be shown in the King's Library. The collection will consist of manuscripts, prints, and books relating to the subject.

At the meeting of the Committee of the National Liberal Club to be held next week, about eighty new candidates will come up for election, more than half of whom are town residents.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month), on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

SOME MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

MURRAY'S MAGAZINE.

Perhaps the voracious "general reader" will turn with most eagerness to Mr. Barnum's article in *Murray*. The string of stories, however (one at any rate has been previously published within the last few weeks), is rather disappointing. Some amusing anecdotes about an eccentric Dr. Barnes, of Boston, are given at considerable length, but their appearance in the magazine is certainly due rather to the fact that it is Mr. Barnum who chronicles them than to any intrinsic worth they may possess. There is a little delicate puffery of Olympia, including the advice to book seats in advance, in this paragraph :—

I notice that my bill-posters, who have posted large numbers of my full-sized picture throughout London, have placed under them the name "P. T. Barnum," which is all very well for this country ; but in America, where every child recognises my portrait, it is unnecessary to affix the name, and we place under it instead, in large letters, the words, "The Children's Friend." I am a great lover of children and have a number of children, grand-children, and great-grand-children of my own. All my exhibitions for the last forty years have contained many elements for the special pleasure and edification of the little ones.

A paper on "Authors and Publishers," by the veteran author of "Self Help," lacks the freshness that might have been expected. Originally, we are told, "men wrote for pleasure or because they desired to propagate their opinions on religion or politics." It is rather curious to find Dr. Smiles thus connecting the beginnings of literature with that ideal state of things looked forward to by many advanced thinkers at the present time. Mr. Yoxall again tilts at "Payment by Results," while Admiral Colomb and Sir Andrew Clarke discuss "Fleets and Forts" in answer to Sir E. Du Cane. Readers with musical tastes will plump for giving the article on Mdme. Schumann and Natalie Janotha the first place. The paper is translated from the Polish diary of the late Mdme. Janotha, mother of the pianist. It gives some striking particulars of Jenny Lind's glowing good nature and overwhelming genius. The following are a few extracts, the first relating to what happened at Windsor :—

Natalie played before the Queen and Royal Family nearly the whole evening and was quite delighted at the kindness she experienced from her Majesty and from each member of the Royal circle. The manner of the Queen was perfectly natural, and full of sweetness and dignity, and charmed Natalie, who was much touched by her simple mourning attire and white head dress. The grave splendour of Windsor struck us beyond what words can describe. . . . Schumann, even when in health, was wrapped up in his music, and took no interest in household matters. There is a story told of him that on one occasion, meeting his own children out walking, he was astonished at the demonstrations of affection they showed him, and, looking at them through his eye-glass, exclaimed, "What lovely children, and how well brought up! Whose are they?" . . . . On one occasion his anger had been excited by a small fault his wife had made in a sonata of Beethoven. "What audacity," he exclaimed, "to make a mistake playing Beethoven!" Jenny Lind said that she would never forget those reproaches, nor the effect they seemed to produce on poor Mdme. Schumann.

"SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE."

A careful article on "Water Storage in the West" makes a rather "shivery" first article for the month of January. The "Impressions" of the Paris Exhibition are a little tardy. "Tripoli of Barbary" forms a good start for "African Studies." The paper on "Spanish Women and their Beauty" is interesting ; nor should an article by Mr. Kennelly (chief electrician of Mr. Edison's laboratory) on "Electricity in the Household" be overlooked. Fire-alarms, sewing-machines, clocks, bells, telephones, phonographs, conservatories lit by incandescent lamps, an electric fan, lawn-mowers, carpet-sweepers, shoe-polishers—all these we are to have in domestic use, and many more, "in the good time coming":—

In fact, there is no household operation capable of being mechanically performed, of which, through the motor, electricity cannot become the drudge and willing slave. It has even been applied to serving at table. A miniature railroad track runs round the table within easy reach of each guest, and thence, by ornamental trestlework, to the wall, disappearing though a shutter. The dishes, as electrically signalled for by the hostess, are laid on little trucks fitted with tiny motors, and are started out from the pantry to the dinner-table. They stop automatically before each guest, who, after assisting himself, presses a button at his side and so gives the car the impetus and right of way to his next neighbour. The whole journey having been performed, the cars return silently to their point of departure.

THE "CENTURY."

A fine portrait of Professor Bryce, to accompany the article which we dealt with at some length yesterday, figures as the frontispiece of this magazine. Miss Amelia B. Edwards leads off with "Bubastis: An Historical Study," which specially appeals to the sympathies of Egyptologists. Mr. Jefferson continues his bright autobiography (with some good portraits of persons and places named), and the following relates to an unrehearsed effect in "Romeo and Juliet" at Wilmington :—

I felt that the balcony scene should have some attention, and I conceived a simple and economical idea that would enable me to produce the effect in a manner "hitherto unparalleled in the annals of the stage." Skirmishing about the wharves and the ship-chandlers', I chanced to light upon a job lot of empty candle-boxes. The boxes placed one by one on top of each other and painted a neat stone colour, formed a pleasing architectural pile. Before the play began I had cautioned Juliet that when "she leaned her cheek upon her hand" she should let her elbow rest gracefully but lightly on the frail structure that was to support it. Romeo also had to be cautioned. Romeo and Juliet were warm and energetic in their love passages, but still acted with becoming care and gentle consideration for the balcony about which they fluttered. All seemed to be going well, till presently there came the sound of half-suppressed laughter from the audience. "Crocker," said I from the wing, "are you shaking the balcony?" "No," he whispered ; "I haven't touched it." "What are they laughing at, then?" "Can't imagine," said he. The laughter increased, and it was quite evident that something not announced in the bills had gradually attracted the attention of the audience till at last the whole house had discovered the mishap. Juliet retreated in amazement, and Romeo rushed off in despair, and down came the curtain. I rushed upon the stage to find out what had occurred, when to my horror I discovered that one of the boxes had been placed with the unpainted side out, on which was emblazoned a semicircular trade mark, setting forth that the very corner-stone of Juliet's balcony contained twenty pounds of the best "short sixes."

Mr. W. J. Stillman deals attractively with Andrea Mantegna, and Mr. Henry James writes with appreciation of Daumier, the caricaturist, whose counterfeit presentment is given, together with some reproductions of the mirth-producing work of his pencil. Perhaps the "Victor Hugo" may be awarded the palm. The details of the assassination of President Lincoln help to throw a grim light on the diabolically "calculated" nature of the plot which had such tragic results on that April evening long ago.

"HARPER'S MAGAZINE."

"Jamaica, New and Old" (capitally illustrated) fills the place of honour in *Harper*, which also contains an illustrated article on "The Russian Army," by "A Russian General," that will interest military readers. The author says:—

In general, the Russian troops in Asia are more practical than others when campaigning. As soon as the soldier learns that he will remain in a place for a day or two, he digs out an oven in the first hillock he finds, and in a few hours he has made some hot bread and cake, of which the first baked are offered to the commander of the troop. The veteran Turkestan soldier never drinks water while he is marching in the desert, but when there comes a quarter of an hour's halt he immediately puts his little tea-kettle on the fire. I wished to introduce this usage into a troop of the interior army during the campaign in Turkey, but the soldiers preferred to rest rather than to trouble about their tea before reaching the bivouac where they were to pass the night.

Mrs. Lillie treats of "Two Phases of American Art," while the most substantial of the remaining articles are one on the "Smyrna Fig Harvest," and a paper by Mr. Andrew Lang on St. Andrews (lately the subject of an article by Professor Butler in the *Pall Mall Gazette*), which is illustrated by Mr. Pennell.

SOME NOVELTIES OF THE NEW YEAR.

The *Antiquary* begins a new series with the January number, which contains a brief contribution by the Hon. Harold Dillon on the Tudor Exhibition. The rest of the contents are well calculated to please those of antiquarian tastes. From Mr. Stock we have also received two new candidates for favour: the *Field Club*, a chatty magazine of general natural history for scientific and unscientific readers, which starts promisingly ; and *Springtide*, a neatly "got up" illustrated magazine for girls and boys, who will no doubt appreciate it. *Time* is now edited by Mr. Belfort Bax, who publishes some modest "forewords." Mr. Walter Crane has designed the cover, and has written half-a-dozen lines explanatory of his intention. Mr. Morris writes on "Art and Industry in the 14th Century," and Mr. Archer on an Ibsen translation ; whilst Mr. Massingham contributes "a note" on "Browning as Theologian." An account of the Gas Workers' Union is also given. The *Monthly Record of Eminent Men* (14, Fetter-lane) provides portraits, autographs, and biographies in convenient form. Perhaps the portraits of Lord Rosebery and the Comte de Paris are the most successful. The *Church Bells Portrait Gallery* (12, Southampton-street, Strand)—minus autographs—is a publication of similar scope, well conceived and well executed.

SIR J. LINTORN SIMMONS AT THE VATICAN.

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT AT A COLLEGE BANQUET.

The Rome correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs :—On the day of St. Thomas of Canterbury, patron saint of the English Catholic College here, the head of that institution, Monsignor Giles, gave a banquet in honour of General Sir John Lintorn Simmons. Covers were laid for 150 guests, among whom, with many other ecclesiastical personages of distinction, were the heads of the Irish and Scotch Colleges, Monsignor Kirby and Monsignor Campbell.

Those who know anything of clerical matters here are aware that there exists an almost wordless but very strong opposition to Sir J. Lintorn Simmons's mission among the Irish Catholics—at least, those who espouse Nationalist doctrines. They resent any apparent drawing together of the Vatican and the British Government in the strongest manner, and have pointedly abstained from showing the English Special Envoy those attentions which he has received from all the other Catholic subjects of the Queen in Rome.

Among the initiated, therefore, one incident of the banquet was productive of some amusement. Monsignor Giles gave the health of "The Queen," which was loyally received, and all the students then sang "God save the Queen," standing. Sir John Lintorn Simmons, in a brief speech, afterwards said how gratifying it had been to witness the loyalty of her Majesty's Catholic subjects, and how sensible he was of the warm hospitality shown by them to him personally in Rome. He had already enjoyed a hospitable welcome at the Scotch and English Colleges, and hoped to receive that of the Irish one.

A better effect was never produced by simpler means. Monsignor Kirby, sitting at the table, must have felt that the honour of Irish hospitality was now involved, and that the invitation must be given. It may seem absurd to English people (adds the correspondent) to be told that there is a party which declares that if there is an English Envoy sent to the Vatican there should also be an Irish one. But after all, it is I suppose, natural in that section which desires to detach Ireland from the United Kingdom.

THE COMING OF AGE OF MR. W. F. D. SMITH.

A CELEBRATION AT THE CRITERION.

Last evening there was an interesting dinner party assembled at the Criterion. The occasion was the celebration of the coming of age of Mr. William Frederick Danvers Smith, son and heir of the Leader of the House of Commons, and nearly 300 men of all ranks who had served the great house in the Strand for over twenty-one years—from heads of departments to carpenters and porters—were present. Young Mr. Smith, who has been educated at Oxford, has hitherto devoted himself to hunting and to the other pursuits of a country gentleman; but now he and Mr. W. H. Smith's son-in-law, Mr. A. D. Acland, who was also present at the gathering, have been admitted as partners into the business. Mr. W. H. Smith presided, and was supported by Mr. C. Awdry, managing partner ; Mr. W. Ford, Q.C., for fifty years counsel to the firm ; Messrs. P. Harvey and C. Capron, the present solicitors ; Mr. J. White, general manager of the business ; Mr. W. F. Kingdon, chief of the books (for sale) department ; Mr. W. Faux, chief of the library department, and the various district superintendents. Many of the guests hailed from the country—from Penzance to Newcastle. Mr. W. H. Smith, who appeared to be in excellent health, had rendered himself still more popular among his employés by meeting them in a social way in the reception room, indulging in reminiscences of old times, and having a cheery smile and hand-shake for all. In the speech which he afterwards made he dwelt with pardonable pride on the development of the firm's business, and showed not the slightest disposition to spurn the ladder up which he had climbed to fame. Mr. W. Lethbridge, late managing partner, was unable to be present, so Mr. Awdry gave the toast of the evening. Young Mr. Smith responded in a happy and admirably-delivered speech, which served to increase the favourable impression which his appearance and manners had already made. Mr. Ford proposed "The Firm," to which Mr. Smith responded ; and the Leader of the House of Commons in turn drank a health to his employés, to which Mr. White replied. The string band of the Woolwich Artillery contributed to the success of a very enjoyable evening.

IS LORD WOLSELEY GOING TO IRELAND?

The *Dublin Express* says :—It is currently reported that Lord Wolseley is to succeed Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar as Commander of the Forces in Ireland.

MR. GLADSTONE'S "CONSERVATISM."

Mr. Gladstone has (the *Daily News* says) written the following letter to Signor de Ionio, the author of a book on Italy in European politics, a copy of which had been sent to him :—"Sir,—The work 'L'Italia nella Politica Europea,' for which I cordially thank you, reached me before your kind letter. I began to read it immediately with great interest, because, though I have scarcely time to fulfil all my engagements, I can never resist giving my attention to what regards the vital interests of Italy. During a visit to Florence in the winter of 1887, and a visit to Naples from December to February, 1889, I was chiefly struck by the vigorous life of Italy, by the profound and solid bases which the ideas of unity and nationality have found in the heart of the population. Before going on I must say that, although I am a Liberal in politics, I am as to my ideas in finance and foreign relations (formed, perhaps, by education, but confirmed by conviction) highly conservative in the sense of avoiding peril and courting secure resources rather than confiding in speculative means (mezzi). In substance, these are my opinions. However that may be, your kindness and frankness invite me to declare plainly that I regard the condition of Italian finance as a national danger, and fear that such danger may be seriously increased if Italian politics continue to be implicated in the embarrassments of Transalpine affairs. I should *not* be equally apprehensive of the peril of the past isolation. The friendly and confidential tenour of your letter has led me to this declaration, which perhaps, as a foreigner, I have no right to offer to one who surpasses me in knowledge of and competence in this matter.—With great respect, Sir, I beg to sign myself, W. E. GLADSTONE."

THE BEQUESTS OF A POETESS.

Mdme. Cora Kennedy, the deceased American poetess, has bequeathed large sums of money for benevolent purposes. The International Peace Society of Italy receives 30,000f., the hospital at Tortona 100,000f., and the Society for the Protection of Animals at Milan, to which the deceased has contributed liberally for several years past, receives under her will 50,000f.

THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE ON THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN'S CASE.

In his twentieth Christmas pastoral the Bishop of Carlisle refers at length to the Bishop of Lincoln's case. His lordship regrets that a protest has been drawn up and signed against the competency of the court as now constituted. He proceeds to take a hopeful view with regard to the future as affected by this case, and says :—The chief heat and friction of recent ritual troubles have been occasioned by this most difficult and debatable Rubric ; consequently there is, in the absence of all complaints connected with the same, a better opening for such a wise, well-considered, thoughtful judgment, as may approve itself to moderate men of all parties, may allay irritation, and may secure respectful and hearty acquiescence. There is no subject at the present moment to which, in my opinion, the prayers of all faithful children of the Church can be more properly directed than this—namely, that God would be pleased to guide, by the influence of His Holy Spirit, the mind of the Archbishop of Canterbury into the path of wisdom, so that his judgment in this painful case may lead to peace. I have abstained hitherto from any public expression of opinion upon this distressing subject but the clergy of the diocese may not unnaturally wish to know something of my thoughts, and on that account I have written the foregoing pages. In a matter involving considerations of so much delicacy and so much difficulty, let me assure you that I am in entire charity with those whose opinions differ most widely from my own. Those, however, who take the most gloomy view of the situation will agree with me in hoping and praying that somehow, though the result may seem to them well nigh impossible, the present troubles may be overruled for the good of the Church which we all love.

REPORTED IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

A NEW TESTAMENT MS. OF THE FOURTH CENTURY.

The *Record* of to-day says :—"We have reason to believe that a discovery of equal importance to New Testament scholars with that which gave Codex Z to the world has just been made. The rumour current in well-informed quarters credits the new find to Bryennios, the learned Archbishop of Nicomedia. The completion of the Epistle of Clement of Rome and the unique MS. of the Teaching of the Apostles have made him famous for discoveries even in this age of discovery. But if the rumour that has come to us be true, and we think there are good reasons for believing it to be so, his name will be more closely identified with the New Testament itself. It is said that in some Turkish libraries at Damascus he has found a MS. of the New Testament, dating from about the middle of the fourth century—that is, of the same antiquity as the Codex Sinaiticus. Indeed, some apprehensions are felt whether it is not altogether too much like the Sinaitic MS. to be of the phenomenal importance that another totally independent MS. of the same age would be. If, as is said, and we are not yet in the position to speak of it as more than a rumour, the new Codex resembles the Sinaitic, not only in the additional books that are appended to it—the Epistle of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas (we wonder whether, unlike the Sinaitic, it contains all the latter)—but also in the peculiarities of text, it would seem to be almost a duplicate of the Sinaitic, both forming perhaps part of an edition issued for the common use of the Palestinian Church. But even if this should prove to be the case, it would tend to show that the general type of text represented by it and the few older MSS. was more commonly accepted than the defenders of the Received Text allow it to have been, and may perhaps help to reassure those strange exponents of criticism who make much of the question of numbers in the authorities for a reading. To the school of Westcott and Hort we should suppose that twenty or thirty duplicates of the Sinaitic would make but little difference, save as confirming the correctness of their theory, but to those timid critics to whom numbers are of importance it would probably be really helpful. Whether or not the new MS. (if it exists) be only a contemporary duplicate or an independent witness, the civilized world will await fuller particulars with extreme interest."

THE EVENING CLASSES AT THE BOARD SCHOOLS.

The evening classes conducted with increasing success by the School Board for London will be reopened after the Christmas vacation on Monday. The Recreative Evening Schools Association is rendering great assistance. The classes are taught by competent teachers. Prizes and certificates are awarded. The fee charged to all pupils is, as a rule, only 3*d*. a week. A small extra fee is charged for shorthand. The classes are held in board schools in every part of the metropolis, and the positions of such schools, and the evenings on which the classes meet are set out on posters affixed to every board school.

MR. GLADSTONE ON PITT.

On New Year's Day Mr. Gladstone wrote to Mr. E. Walford acknowledging the receipt of his "Biography of Pitt." In this letter the late Prime Minister draws the most marked distinction between the earlier and the latter part of the great statesman's career. He writes :—"Too much praise cannot well be given to the wisdom and liberality of Mr. Pitt's views in the early part of his life. This is a problem, and the solution of it lies mainly in Mr. Goldwin Smith's declaration that there were two Pitts—the one before 1793, and the other after."

THE MAYBRICK CASE.—ALLEGED FRESH EVIDENCE.

Certain energetic sympathizers of Mrs. Maybrick have been for many weeks busily engaged (says the *Citizen*) collecting and inquiring into some very material facts which, it is alleged, were suppressed at the trial. The new evidence is of a most important character, and throws an entirely new complexion upon the case.

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